

*A History of
Travancore*

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From the Earliest Times

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**Pages of this volume are in continuation
to the previous volume.**



CHAPTER IV.

SREE PADMANABHA DASAVANJI PALA BALA RAMA VURMAH
KULASEKHARA KIREETAPATHI MUNNAY SULTAN MAHA-
RAJ RAJAH RAMARAJAH BAHAUDUR SHAMSHEER
JUNG MAHA RAJAH.

HIIS young sovereign of sixteen years was installed on the musnud on the death of his uncle, on the 7th Kumbham 973 M.E. (18th February 1798 A.D.). Though His Highness was of a good disposition, yet he appears to have been a singular exception to the many scions of this royal family, in regard to intellectual gifts and mental acquirements. He was completely in the hands of a set of favourites, among whom Oodiary Jayanthen Sankaren Numboory, a native Brahman from the Calicut Rajah's territories was the foremost and who seems to have been the moving spirit of the Government of the time. An uneducated man, Sankaren Numboory was devoid of all good principles, and possessed an ambitious and avaricious spirit.

This covetous Numboory aimed at the Dewan's post, and therefore the first step he took was to set the young Maha Rajah against the old and worthy minister, Rye Kasava Dass. The Numboory carried his intrigues to such an extent as to cause the Maha Rajah not to admit the minister to his presence whenever public business required that he should see the sovereign.

The national feelings in Travancore regarding loyalty are of a sacred nature under certain peculiar circumstances, a fact which has been already explained



BALA RAMA VURMAH MAHA RAJAH

in the second chapter of this work, so that the position of the Travancore sovereign had become somewhat parallel to that of the Pope in Rome; and therefore neither the people nor the servants of the State would dare to disobey the king or act against the wishes of the sovereign, whether royalty was represented by an ignorant minor, or an educated sovereign in his dotage.

Under such circumstances the Dewan found himself in a position of some difficulty, as he could not carry on public business as freely and regularly as before or do anything without the sovereign's special commands.

In 974 M.E. (1799 A.D.), one Thottappaye Numboory of Cochin, a bosom friend of Jayanthen Sankaren Numboory, took advantage of this state of affairs and begged his friend to prevail upon the Maha Rajah to restore to Cochin the Karappuram territories which had been taken by Rama Iyen Dalawali, and ceded to Travancore by the Cochin Rajah by his last treaty. Jayanthen Sankaren Numboory succeeded in obtaining the young Maha Rajah's signature to a document drawn out by him, sanctioning the restoration of the Sharétalay district (Karappuram) to the Cochin Rajah, and handed the same clandestinely to the said Thottappaye.

This document which was called a Neet or royal writ, was taken with all possible secrecy by the Thottappaye Numboory, without the knowledge of the Dewan, or any of the ministerial officers.

The Dewan received private information about this treacherous transaction, a few hours after the departure of Thottappaye with the Neet, when the minister having posted horses by the sea-beach between Trevandrum and Quilon, proceeded northwards at once, in pursuit of the Numboory. On the Dewan's reaching Paroor. Ootupurah, south of Quilon, he had the satisfaction to learn that Thottappaye Numboory had just halted there to take his meals at the Ootupurah. He was at once stopped, and the writ recovered from him.

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This faithful conduct of the Dewan irritated the young Maha Rajah, and offended the treacherous Oodiary Numboory to such an extent, that he began to devote all his attention towards compassing the ruin of the Dewan, and this being known to the minister, he began to feel very uneasy. The proceedings of the court itself at the time were anything but satisfactory, and matters began to go from bad to worse day by day.

A month or two after the anniversary of the late sovereign's death, 974 M.E. (1799 A.D.), the Dewan had one day the heart-rending mortification to see the Numboory sitting in the State palanquin that belonged to the late sovereign and being carried round the streets in procession in grand style as if it was a procession of the sovereign himself. This palanquin, the late Maha Rajah had always looked upon as a favourite piece of furniture, and therefore the Dewan had wished to preserve it in tact in memory of His Highness. A deep sense of regard and reverence for his departed sovereign, and a sense of his own duty impelled the Dewan to make some strong and severe remarks on the Numboory's improper conduct in thus taking advantage of the young Maha Rajah's kindness towards him. Soon after this event, the Dewan appears to have received what is generally called in Travancore a 'Velaku Neet,' (royal commission of dismissal) and he was confined in his house under a guard.

A few days after this, 8th Madom, the town of Trevandrum was shocked with the harrowing intelligence that Dewan Rye Kasava Dass was lying dead in his own bed in the chamber of his residence. It appears that there was not a soul in the Dewan's house except the guards.

The Dewan had no wife, or son or other relatives living with him at the time of his death. As he resided apart from them and close to his office, inside the Trevandrum fort and palace, nobody could explain the actual cause of the minister's death.

Some say that he was poisoned, at the instance of the Numboory, through the Dewan's cook, while others assert that the Dewan poisoned himself in consequence of the irregular, ill-advised and reprehensible proceedings of the young Maha Rajah who was now entirely under the influence of the Numboory, but the consensus of public opinion was in favor of the supposition that the lamented Dewan met with his death by foul play at the instigation of the Numboory. This opinion has been adopted as the only possibly correct solution of the question as to how he had met with his death by Lieut. Horsley who says in his work "Memoirs of Travancore" that, this Prince, from his weakness and other causes appears to have had great difficulty in contending with his ministers, who, devoid of all gratitude, alternately abused or usurped his power. The first person who seized on the administration in the character of Dewan, attained his success by the death of his predecessor and a long list of adherents who had supported his cause." That Dewan Rye Kasava Dass had been poisoned, was the view taken by the Court of Directors of the Honorable East India Company, who, in a general letter addressed to the Madras Government on the 29th September 1809 said : "The late Dewan (Kasava Dass) so much respected by the people was not suffered to live even in retirement. There is very strong reason to believe that he was taken off by poison."

Thus the old and faithful minister was cut off in the middle of his age, and almost within a year of the death of his sovereign master, of happy memory. It was very surprising, and is certainly matter for painful reflection that such a remarkable personage as Dewan Rye Kasava Dass, who had actually saved the country from the grasp of a powerful enemy, Tippoo Sultan, and ensured the permanent security of the country by strengthening the alliance with the Honorable East India Company, and who had improved it in every respect, was allowed to meet with such a

CHAP. shamful death, and that his remains should have been buried like those of an ordinary private individual without any public demonstration of regret or respect.

IV. It is said that the Dewan's younger brother Cumaren Thamby, the then General and Commander-in-Chief of the Travancore army, and his nephew Erayimen Thamby, the Peishcar, with some other relatives alone formed the procession at the funeral of this truly great man.

This Dewan was not well known to the outside world, as in his days there were not many newspapers or periodicals criticising and eulogising men and measures as in modern times.

He seems to have had no other interest at heart save that of his sovereign and of his country, and he devoted his whole attention towards promoting the welfare of the people entrusted to his care. The office he considered as his house, and spent his time mostly in the discharge of his public duties. Owing to the weakness and minority of the Maha Rajah, and the animosity of the Numboory, this worthy Dewan's services were not recognised during this reign, but the popular indignation at his unexpected and mysterious end was so great that evil consequences were apprehended.

In the year 975 (1800 A.D.), when Colonel Macaulay arrived in Travancore after his appointment as Resident, he instituted some enquiry into the Dewan's untimely death, when Samprathy Kunjuncelam Pillay and others were arrested, but in the absence of evidence to warrant their conviction, they were discharged.

The field being now clear Jayanthen Sankaren Numboory, found no difficulty in attaining the object of his ambition. He prevailed upon the young and simple-minded Maha Rajah to sign a Neet (royal commission) appointing him to the high post of Valia Sarvadhi-kariakar (prime minister), on the 4th day, 11th Madom

974, after the death of the meritorious and the much lamented Dewan, Rye Kasava Dass.

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The new Premier, untrained and unfitted as he was for the high and responsible office of prime minister, was bewildered and almost helpless on his sudden exaltation. He selected for his council Chetty Thackalay Sankaranarayanan Valia Melaluthu (finance minister), and Mathoo Tharaken, an influential Syrian Christian of the north, who held the salt, tobacco and other contracts during the last reign. These two men were as unprincipled as the Numboory himself.

"Thus this triumvirate of ignorance, profligacy and rapacity came to rule the destinies of this interesting principality, in spite of the earnest wish which the Governor-General, Lord Mornington expressed 'that a really efficient ministry should be formed.'"

But after due consultation with his friends and supporters, the Numboory came to the determination of remedying the financial embarrassments, and thus please his young employer and benefit himself at the same time. In order to effect this, the council resolved upon raising a general contribution.

Rules were framed for a systematic levying of the contribution, with a clause authorizing the infliction of such punishment on refusal of payment, as the ministry and Prince may deem proper. These rules obtained the royal assent at once.

In accordance with a list which had been prepared, the ministry began to summon people before them and demand immediate payment of the sums fixed in the list against their names or to be prepared to undergo the infamy of being subjected to corporal punishment.

This inhuman and barbarous system of extortion went on for a fortnight, and a large sum of money was realised. Several respectable persons were flogged and imprisoned. Merchants, landlords, retired public servants, all suffered alike; so much so, that no family, even of ordinary circumstances, was spared. Cries

CHAP. against all this injustice and tyranny were heard
IV. throughout the length and breadth of the land.

In the course of these arbitrary and tyrannical proceedings, one Valu Thamby Kariakar an ex-Tahsildar, was summoned before this detestable Numboory ministry for payment. The amount fixed against his name was 20,000 caly fanams equal to about 3,000 rupees. He was required to pay down the money immediately, or to be exposed to the disgrace of being lashed like those who could not pay. Valu Thamby, being a bold young man, of a respectable family, blessed with a quick understanding, would not submit to the affront thus offered him. He informed the Numboory premier, that he did not come there provided with money; that he would not submit to the punishment proposed to him in lieu of money; and that he would go to Nanjenaud and raise the money within three days to meet the demand. He was made to sign a promissory note to this effect before he took his departure.

Valu Thamby proceeded to the south, and convened a meeting of all the heads of villagers about Nanjenaud. He sounded the brazen drum, the ancient signal summoning the inhabitants about Nanjenaud on all emergent occasions, to rise, and also sent emissaries as far as Alleppey for apprising the people. After forming a council the leaders issued notices to the elders and others of the villages all round to join the assembly in order to take measures to put a stop to these arbitrary proceedings of the Numboory ministry.

The populace, being in a state of great indignation at the illegal and disgraceful proceedings of the ministry, Valu Thamby and other leaders of the insurrection found no difficulty in inducing people from the south as well as about Trevandrum to flock to their standard. The military secretly joined the assembly, and Valu Thamby found himself at the head of a large number of men, ready for an insurrection.

As Valu Thamby did not present himself with the money promised by him, and hearing that he was

organizing an insurrectionary force, the ministry issued ^{CHAP.}
a proclamation for his apprehension and delivery at ^{IV.}
Trevandrum.

The proclamation had simply the effect of causing Valu Thamby and others to hasten their approach to Trevandrum, with the assembled multitude. They soon reached it, and encamped outside of the Trevandrum fort in the north, where a large number had already assembled from the northern parts of the kingdom.

Their sacred regard for the king and the royal family prevented Valu Thamby and his followers from venturing on a forcible entrance into the fort to seize the Numboory Valia Sarvadhiakariakar and his comrades. At the approach of Valu Thamby and his host, the Maha Rajah was quite alarmed and awakened to a sense of his duty. He deputed some of the officials, together with the high priest and other Brahman servants attached to the pagoda, to meet the people, and to convey to them His Highness' perfect willingness to accede to all reasonable demands. Valu Thamby, as the chief of the leaders, stated the cause of the gathering of such a large number of His Highness' subjects and demanded in the name of the people; (1), that the Numboory Valia Sarvadhiakariakar should be immediately dismissed and banished; (2), that the Maha Rajah should execute a Neet binding himself not to recall him; (3), that Sankara Narayanan and Mathoo Tharaken should be publicly flogged and have their ears cut off; and (4), that the salt tax as well as all other odious taxes should be remitted.

These requisitions were immediately complied with by His Highness and the Numboory minister and his colleagues were dismissed on the 6th Methunam 974 (1799 A.D.), as by such a measure alone His Highness thought he could appease his infuriated subjects but Valu Thamby would not be satisfied with the simple dismissal of the Numboory Valia Sarvadhiakariakar, &c. He requested His Highness to order all the

CHAP. dismissed officers to be given up to the assembly, with
IV. permission to deal with them according to their deserts.

They were accordingly made over to the assembly. A select party of the leaders forming a court or Punchayet sentenced the ex-Valia Sarvadhikariakar to be disgraced and banished the country, and Sankara Narayananen and Mathoo Tharaken as already proposed to have their ears cut off and be imprisoned.

This sentence was carried out at once. Sankara Narayananen Pillay was sent to the Udayagherry fort to be confined there in irons, while Mathoo Tharaken was imprisoned at Trevandrum.

After accomplishing all the above, the crowd dispersed, and a select party, headed by one Iyappen Chempaka Ramen Pillay of Sheraingheel, who was also one of the principal leaders of the insurrection, accompanied by Valu Thamby, presented themselves before the young Maha Rajah and placed their services at His Highness' disposal. They proposed the formation of a new cabinet and His Highness accepted their offer with alacrity.

Sheraingheel Iyappen Chempaka Ramen Pillay was appointed Valia Sarvadhikariakar, prime minister, and several others were selected for subordinate offices. Valu Thamby received the appointment of Mulakumadeseela Sarvadhikariakar (commercial minister).

Thus was a new administration brought into existence. The Valia Sarvadhikariakar, an able and experienced man, lost no time in correcting all the evils introduced by the infamous Numboory Valia Sarvadhikariakar, and in re-establishing the confidence of the people in the administration.

This wise minister adopted also the most important and essential measure of selecting and appointing as personal attendants on the young Maha Rajah, a few wise and disinterested men, of the Brahman, Kshatria and Sudra castes, and His Highness, though weak and

simple-minded, was found to be docile, especially after these troubles. CHAP.
IV.

This minister's tenure of office was not very long, for he died fourteen months after his appointment. Nevertheless, within this short interval, he proved himself to be equal to some of his predecessors. He was succeeded by Parechalay Padmanabhen Chempaka Ramen Pillay.

The new minister, partly from his unfitness for the high post, and partly from some underhand pressure soon met with his downfall, and was sent home relieved from the cares of office after a career of about eight months.

Now, Valu Thamby, Mulakumadesela Sarvadhi-kariakar, who had all along been watching with an eagle-eye for the first favorable opportunity to obtain the high office of prime minister began to adopt measures for accomplishing his long cherished design. This ambitious officer gained over almost all the favorites of the Maha Rajah.

At this time 976 M.E (1801 A.D.), the principal favorite officials in the palace were Samprathy Kunju-neelam Pillay, Valia Meleluthu, Muthu Pillay and Shanapathy Suba Iyen. Besides these, there was a host of unprincipled men as favorites of the young Maha Rajah and all these favored the designs of Valu Thamby. But there were two able officers in the service, whose claims to promotion had been overlooked more than once. They were Thamby Chempaka Ramen Cumaren, the younger brother, and Erayimen, the nephew of the late lamented Dewan, Rye Kasava Dass. Both of these men had several English friends in Madras and Bombay owing to the influence of their relative the late Dewan. The two officers were in close correspondence with their friends which fact was well known to Valu Thamby and Kunjuneelam Pillay.

With the express view of disqualifying these two officials for the high office of prime minister, Kunju-

CHAP. neelam Pillay and his colleagues began to plot against them. Kunjuneelam Pillay fabricated false accounts at the palace showing a claim of several lacs of rupees against the late Dewan as having been appropriated by him, from the treasury, without the permission of the late Maha Rajah. These relatives of the late Dewan were called upon to liquidate the debt. They objected, and the matter created a good deal of unpleasantness in the palace. With the view of shielding themselves from the attacks of their enemies, they had been communicating with their English friends. This circumstance was misrepresented to the Maha Rajah by Kunjuneelam Pillay and others. They said that these officers, the general, and the peishcar, were engaged in a correspondence, involving a treacherous design against His Highness' kingdom, and that credible information had been received that they had been communicating with the English both at Madras, and at Bombay for this purpose and that their intention would be shortly carried into effect. To prove this assertion, they fabricated some letters in the name of those officers as if written by them to the Governor of Madras, and to the Nabob of the Carnatic, and produced the same before the Maha Rajah.

The Maha Rajah being naturally of a timid disposition and credulous in such matters, was quite alarmed and perplexed, and consulted Valu Thamby, who had now become Sarvadhikariakar, and who confirmed the report.

The general and the peishcar, together with a linguist named Padmanabha Pillay, and one Walikalam-paut Neelam Pillay, were arrested on a charge of treason. Immediately after this, Valu Thamby was appointed Valia Sarvadhikariakar, (prime minister) and he proceeded to Alleppey to hold his office there, like Dewan Rye Kasava Dass.

Subsequent to the Sarvadhikariakar's departure from Trevandrum, the death-warrant of the two officers was signed by the Maha Rajah.

They were on a certain night, taken by the palace guards and dragged quietly to the sea-beach, where they were butchered in cold blood. A detailed account of this bloody act was obtained from an old horse-keeper, who had accompanied the party on that night to the scene of massacre. This event took place in the month of Vycasy 976 (1801 A.D.).

Intelligence of this sad and diabolical act was spread in Trevandrum only on the next day, when the military, as well as the ministerial servants, became enraged, and a rising was almost apprehended, but the Samprathy and his colleagues found means to quiet and pacify the enraged party, by making a free use of His Highness' name, and giving them to understand that the general and the peishcar were actually guilty of organizing a conspiracy to give up the country to the English and even to attempt His Highness' life.

The interpreter Padmanabha Pillay and his comrade Neelam Pillay, who were in confinement were sent to Mavalikaray, but on their way, the latter (Neelam Pillay), jumped over board at the Anjengo bar, and saved himself from the disgraceful death that awaited him. Padmanabha Pillay on reaching Mavalikaray, was executed at the eastern fort gate.

Samprathy Kunjuneelam Pillay engaged himself heart and soul in effecting the atrocious and disgraceful murder of the general and the peishcar, as this unworthy minion had considerable influence over the Maha Rajah. It is not improbable that the young sovereign who was immersed in pleasures and devoted his time to his seraglio, was ignorant of his having signed the death-warrant of two of His Highness' most meritorious officers. Rajah Madava Row says thus on this point: "It is certain, however, that one Kunjuneelam Pillay who filled the office of palace Samprathy (a secretary) was the head of the cabal. Crafty, unprincipled and ambitious, he had acquired a dangerous ascendancy at the Durbar. Practically, the reins of Government were in the hands of this

CHAP. low and depraved individual and the Maha Rajah
IV. occupied himself alternately with the pleasures of the seraglio and the ceremonies of superstition."

Valu Thamby was now appointed (977) as Dalawah, and he began a career, unprecedented in many respects.

He was a man of extraordinary ability and talents; of strong passions and quick sensibility and was amazingly bold and daring.

Though the career of this Dalawah had every appearance of despotism and cruelty, yet his intention throughout all his proceedings was honest, fair, and good, his attention being always directed to promote the public interests.

The most remarkable quality in this officer was his purity of character; his moral principles were so refined, that his equal was scarcely to be found in Travancore in those days.

The first step Valu Thamby took after his appointment was, to establish order among the people, and ensure the honest performance of their duties by Sircar servants throughout the kingdom. To effect this, he adopted punishments far exceeding in severity those prescribed by the law of the country, and the nature of the crimes called for.

The whole administration, revenue, civil, judicial and military, was assumed by him, and his orders were supreme in the country, which was altogether in a dis-organised state since the dismissal of the renowned Dewan Rye Kasava Dass. The public services were thoroughly demoralised. There was no such thing as discipline. Heads of departments were independent and masters of their respective offices. Intrigues and cheating were the order of the day, and life and property were in serious jeopardy.

The above state of affairs was corrected and perfect security and safety established by the strong hand of Valu Thamby Dalawah, in the course of a few months.



VALU THAMBY DALAWAH.

The whole service was at once cleansed and corruption eradicated. The measures used for this purpose were such, that the very hearing of the particulars would startle and create emotion in the stoutest and boldest heart.

It would be tiresome, to enumerate in detail all the kinds of punishments inflicted by the stone-hearted minister, especially when public servants were convicted of any fault or misdemeanour. We shall only state just a few. Fraudulent appropriation of Sircar money was punished with incarceration in the jail for lengthened periods, and even with death in addition to forfeiture of the whole property belonging to the family of the delinquent, without regard to the amount of the fraud or embezzlement. Tampering with the Sircar records was punished with amputation of the palms or fingers of the right hand of the criminal. Bribery was punished with the infliction of corporal punishment on the back of the delinquent in the public bazaars and thoroughfares. Perjury was punished by cutting off the lips and nose of the criminal, and oppression of ryots was visited with corporal punishments and forfeiture of property; this latter punishment was resorted to, in almost every case, wherein a Sircar servant was convicted. The Dalawah being well versed in the laws of Manu and also in the prescriptions of the Mahomedan law, adhered strictly to the punishments therein prescribed. Robbers and thieves were alike visited with the extreme penalty of the law. Pocket-picking and breaking of locks entailed on the criminals the loss of their palms or the fingers of their hands. The violation of females and the offence of rape were often punished by the offenders being beheaded. Stealing fruits from gardens was generally visited with corporal punishment, and in special cases with amputation, impalement or nailing on the trees in the avenues and other public places.

By such extraordinary and fearful acts, a reign of terror was established in the country and crimes and

CHAP.
IV.

misdemeanours, both among the Sircar servants and the people, became almost unknown. The very figure of the Dalawah, who was tall and proportionately stout with an imposing appearance, seemed ever present in the minds of all the Sircar servants, as well as rogues and criminals.

The Dalawah was always moving from one district to another on circuit, taking along with him a select party of his subordinate officials from the revenue, judicial and military departments.

The mode of transacting business was similar to that of a field officer in a country where martial law had been proclaimed ; for the Dalawah used to hold his judicial and military courts even under trees and on the plains, when he received any serious complaint during his circuit. The whole time occupied by him in hearing and deciding cases, seldom exceeded four or five hours ; within that interval, he would himself examine the complainant's witnesses, defendants or prisoners in the presence of his Sastri and Muffthee, and then pronounce judgment. If the case was one of murder, the convicted criminals would be hanged on the very tree under which he sat before he started from the place.

The Dalawah was as severe as he was strict and impartial. Like Rama Iyen Dalawah and Rye Kasava Dass Dewan, he had also removed himself from his family influences in a great measure. His impartiality and strictness are strikingly exhibited in the following incident : There lived a Chanar near the Dalawah's house, who had a cocoanut garden, which he gave to a relative of Valu Thamby under the tenure of mortgage. He enjoyed it for a considerable time, paying the assessment tax to the Sircar in the Chanar's name, but when Valu Thamby came into power, the mortgagee succeeded in obtaining a registry of the garden, in his own name, without the knowledge and consent of the Chanar, through the influence of Valu Thamby, the Dalawah's mother. During a tour in the Southern

districts, the Chanar made a complaint on the subject to the Dalawah, who, as usual, immediately called the Proverthy accountant and questioned him on the subject, when, to his surprise, he learnt that such a registry was made by the very accountant at the request of the Dalawah's mother, who, on being asked by the Dalawah, confirmed the statements of the accountant. The Dalawah looked at his mother with an indignant smile, observing that he little expected that *she* would cause such an odium to be cast on his name. Saying this, he sent for a carpenter, and a broad chisel, and in the presence of his mother, the Pillay's fingers were chopped off with the chisel, and he was dismissed from the service. He next caused the re-entry of the name of the Chanar into the Proverthy accounts as the owner of the garden alluded to.

As Valu Thamby was thus carrying every thing with a high hand, in 978 M.E. (1803 A.D), he began to experience strong opposition from the military, as well as from the ministerial servants and palace officials, who were all offended with him on account of the severity of his proceedings. And while the Dalawah was at Alleppey Kunjuneelam Pillay Samprathy and Muthu Pillay, Valia Meleluthu Pillay and a few of the most influential officers of the military, conspired against the Dalawah and prevailed upon His Highness to issue a royal warrant for his apprehension and immediate execution, appointing, at the same time, one Neelakunden Chempaka Ramen as Valia Sarvadikariakar of the State.

Fortunately for the Dalawah, Major Macaulay who had been appointed in 1800 as Resident of Travancore, arrived from Palamcottah and Valu Thamby's wisdom suggested to him, his taking Major Macaulay's advice in all important matters. Ramalingum Moodeliar, the grandfather of Vedadrissadasa Moodeliar, the present third Judge of the Travancore Sudr Court, was appointed Sthanapathy or the Resident's Agent

CHAP. at the Maha Rajah's Court, and the friendship and
IV. good-will of that person also the Dalawah managed to secure.

The Dalawah saw Colonel Macaulay who was then at Cochin, and acquainted him with the particulars of the conspiracy against his life, and acting upon the Resident's advice, Valu Thamby went to Trevandrum for the purpose of paying his respects to His Highness and explaining matters, but through the intrigues of the palace officials, an audience was refused to him by the Maha Rajah. Valu Thamby communicated this to the Resident, informing him at the same time that Samprathy Kunjuneelam Pillay, Valia Meleluthu Muthu Pillay, Major Padmanabhen Chempaka Ramen Pillay, Vanchiyoor Papu Pillay, Pooliel Cochu Narayana Pillay Sarvadikariakar and Vanchiyoor Padmanabhen Thamby were the principal persons who instigated the Rajah to sanction the unjust execution of the late general and peishcar. Colonel Macaulay thereupon came to Trevandrum, along with Ramalingum Moodeliar, escorted by a few companies of the subsidiary force, stationed at Quilon, and held an immediate inquiry regarding the conspiracy and the cause of the execution of the general and peishcar. The charges of conspiracy and the innocence of the general and peishcar were established, and Samprathy Kunjuneelam Pillay, Valia Meleluthu Muthu Pillay and some others were suspected. Some of them were confined in the Udagherry fort, while others were sent to Alleppey and Mavalikaray to be confined there, pending a formal trial by a Court. But Valu Thamby Dalawah found an easy way of disposing them before a trial, for with the exception of Major Chempaka Ramen, Padmanabhen Pillay and Sarvadhi Neelakunden Chempaka Ramen Pillay, all the prisoners died before they could be put on their trial.

Though matters were thus arranged to the satisfaction of Valu Thamby, the Maha Rajah's advisers felt extreme displeasure, and they managed to em-

bitter the mind of the Maha Rajah against Major Macauly, by whose influence they said the best men of His Highness' council had been taken away and destroyed. They said that the next step the Major would adopt would be to curtail His Highness' power and make him a puppet in the hands of the Resident. The Maha Rajah represented the matter to the Governor-General in strong terms and requested Major Macauly's recall and supercession. Major Macauly was called to Calcutta by Marquis Wellesley to offer a personal explanation, and after detaining that officer there for some time, he was sent back, when the Governor-General wrote to the Maha Rajah to the effect that "the Major being an able and energetic officer was sent to Travancore in the hope that he should conduct all affairs to your satisfaction. I am sorry to hear so from you. Major Macauly by our order came to Calcutta and fully related matters. He says that there are no differences between you and him, and I am very glad to hear this. Valu Thamby's appointment as Dewan was a source of great pleasure to the Government, because he is able and energetic."

During Major Macauly's stay at Calcutta he wrote to his agent at the Travancore Durbar the following letter :—

“ CALCUTTA, 20th April, 1802.”

“ I am happy to hear that the Travancore minister is going on so well. I have most particularly mentioned him to Marquis Wellesley, who has been gratified by hearing of the judicious choice made by the Rajah.”

Marquis Wellesley, the Governor-General of India, sent to Valu Thamby through Colonel Macauly, a present of a pair of valuable shawls, gold dresses and kincob, according to the formality observed at the installation of Chiefs in India.*

* “ You can present the minister with the shawls, and gold dresses and kincob from yourself when you go to Travancore.

Major Macauly to Ramalingum Moodellur.

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IV.

During the able, though arbitrary administration of Valu Thamby Dalawah, soukars and bankers in the town, and bazaarmen as well as the peasantry in the country, could sleep with open and unbolted doors in perfect safety at night. Merchants and people of all descriptions could travel through any part of the country without fear of molestation.

Valu Thamby Dalawah caused a survey of all the lands and gardens throughout the kingdom to be made and new pattas or pathivus were issued to all the proprietors and other landholders. New auyacattoo or assessment account was completed and a regularity in the system of keeping and conducting accounts introduced and enforced. By this measure, an increase in the land revenue was effected, and the financial position of the country considerably improved.

Commercial speculations and pursuits specially engaged the Dalawah's attention, and therefore the traffic department of the Sircar was brought to perfection; and all the cash, which any source of revenue yielded to the Government, found its way into the Sircar treasury, instead of into the private purse of the servants as heretofore. Never had the conservation of public funds been more successfully accomplished since the demise of Rye Kasava Dass Dewan.

The finances of the Sircar having, as above stated, been brought into such a flourishing condition, the Dalawah was now able to pay off all the arrears of the salaries due to the Sircar establishments as well as to the various institutions, and also to clear off the State debts, which were very heavy at the time.

The Dalawah took great interest in improving Quilon, where new bazaars were built; several Tinnevelly and Madura merchants were invited to settle there, and with the view of making the place one of some importance, a large and spacious building for the cutcherries was constructed, as also a Hindu pagoda, a royal residence, and other requisite buildings. Quilon thus became a town of note like Alleppey.

During the whole of his administration the Dalawah was very careful in preserving the amity and friendship existing between the Honorable East India Company and the Travancore Sircar. This able minister, having been an admirer of Dewan Rye Kasava Dass, saw that the safest plan was to follow the system of Government adopted by that illustrious Statesman.

The Dalawah devoted a great deal of his attention to the improvement of the town and port of Alleppey, for which purpose he often resided there.* He commenced opening up various roads for traffic to that important commercial town from various directions and established a market at Chunganacherry fifteen miles south-east, and another thoroughfare at Thalayolan-parampu near Vycome, twenty-nine miles north of Alleppey. In these two thoroughfares, weekly and bi-weekly markets are still held, when all the articles produced in the interior of the country are brought and disposed of by the ryots, and whence they find their way to the ports of Alleppey and Cochin.

It was this Dalawah who cleared the bushy island in the middle of the backwater, north of Alleppey, and planted the same with cocoanut trees and converted a portion of it into paddy fields. A bungalow was also built there afterwards. This island is now known by the name of Patheramanapuram, and was in the possession of Mr. J. Munro, the present superintendent and magistrate of the Travancore Sircar's cardamon hills. It was lately transferred to a native at Thunneermukum. The Manjali market, in the district of Alangaud, was also established by this Dalawah.

The road from Quilon to Shencottah was opened, and in order to induce Brahmans and other travellers to pass by that road, and for their comfort an Ootu-

* "The minister is at Alleppey living in the Dewan's house; he has now been absent from the Rajah six weeks and seems to follow the example, in every thing, of the old Dewan."

Major Macaulay to Ramalingum Mooliar.

CHAP. purah was established at Mampalathuray, and some other works for convenience of the public were constructed. The present hall of audience attached to the palace at Trevandrum, in the southern street of the fort, was built under the superintendence of the Dalawah. This was originally a part of the palace built by Rye Kasava Dass Dewan at Alleppey, and removed from thence to Trevandrum by the Dalawah.

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While Valu Thamby was thus going on successfully, he thought it expedient to effect a retrenchment in the expenditure especially as there were arrears of subsidy to be paid to the British Government. The first item that engaged the attention of the Dalawah was the allowance of the Nair troops, whose maintenance, he thought, was, at that time, an unnecessary drain upon the exchequer. In this view the Resident fully concurred. This measure created a general disaffection in the military and kindled the fire of a rebellion, which being fanned by the enemies of the Dalawah, some of whom were then in custody in the Udagherry fort, as well as at Mavalikaray, extended throughout the country. The State prisoners were released and every military station was abandoned. The concentrated force proceeded to Trevandrum, with the object of insisting on the dismissal and execution of the obnoxious minister and all his associates, and the appointment of a minister to be nominated by the military. When the mutineers came *en masse* to Trevandrum, they found nobody to resist them, but on the other hand supporters in the persons of the enemies of the Dalawah. The Dewan was absent at Alleppey. The young Maha Rajah was perplexed at his singular situation, for there was not a single man of ability and firmness at the capital to cope with the difficulty. By this time, the news reached Alleppey, and the Dewan seeing that the Nair battalions there had also mutinied, fled to Cochin, where the British Resident then was, and after mutual consultation, the Resident ordered a body of troops from Tinnevelly to march to Trevandrum, and the

Dewan collected the Carnatic brigade who were faithful. He made arrangements for the marching of the subsidiary force at Quilon to Trevandrum. Having made these arrangements, he, with the Resident, came to Alleppey, and measures were adopted for the purpose of bringing to punishment the chief instigators and leaders of the revolt. Several of them were apprehended and hanged, beheaded, shot and blown from the mouths of guns. One of them suffered a most cruel and shocking death, for, his legs were tied to those of two elephants, and the animals made to run and tear the unfortunate man in two!! It has been said that when this mutineer was thus tied, and lying on his back, Valu Thamby Dalawah, who was just at the spot, approached him and asked him:—"Krishna Pillay (such was his name) how do you feel now?" The mutineer lifted up his head and said, "I feel as comfortable now, as if I was lying on the rascal Valu Thamby's velvet bed, on his family cot." This bears testimony to the courage and daring of the Travancore Nairs of the period.

By such cruel measures, and by disarming the best portion of the military, and disbanding several corps in the force by a royal proclamation, Valu Thamby was enabled to put down the mutiny effectually, though the general feeling against the Dalawah became stronger, and his opponents were only waiting for an opportunity to break out against him.

Valu Thamby Dalawah believed that with this fearful vindication of his power and authority he had brought the military as well as those against him, under subjection, and that he had nothing to apprehend from them, and so resumed his despotic administration.

When the news of the meeting of the Nair troops reached Calcutta, the following letter was addressed to the Madras Government by Lord Wellesley, the then Governor-General, under date the 17th December 1804:

CHAP. " MY LORD,
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" The British Resident at the Court of the Rajah of Travancore has communicated to your Lordship the circumstances of an insurrection among the Nair battalions in the service of the Rajah of Travancore, and of the danger to which the authority of the Rajah, and the influence of the British Government in Travancore are exposed by the extent of that insurrection and the violence and activity of the insurgents.

" The treaty concluded between the British Government and the Rajah of Travancore in the year 1797 does not contain any express stipulation for the aid of the British power in quelling internal commotions within the territories of that Prince; but the spirit of the treaty certainly imposes upon us that obligation. The expediency, however, of affording such aid in the present crisis is obvious, especially under this consideration, that the avowed object of the insurrection is the subversion of the British influence in the councils of the Rajah.

" If, therefore, your Lordship should not have adopted measures for the relief of the Rajah of Travancore, I request that on receipt of this despatch your Lordship will issue orders directing the immediate despatch of a British force from the most convenient quarter, for the purpose of quelling the insurrection in the vicinity of Travancore, and of restoring the authority of the Rajah and the Dewan.

" I consider this occurrence to afford a favorable opportunity for the modification of our subsidiary engagements with the Rajah of Travancore. The modification which I propose is, that the British force at present subsidized by the Rajah be permanently stationed within his dominions, and that the British Government possess authority to regulate the dispositions of that force within the territories of the Rajah in such a manner as may appear best calculated to secure the object of its appointment.

" I have accordingly directed the Resident at Travancore to propose that modification to the Rajah of ~~Travancore~~<sup>CHAI
IV.</sup> at the earliest opportunity.

" It may be proper on this occasion to state to your Lordship that the preservation and improvement of our influence in that country has been uniformly considered by me to be an object of the greatest importance to the interests and security of the British Government in India ; and in my judgment the present exigency of the Rajah of Travancore's affairs justifies and requires a vigorous exertion of our force for the restoration of his authority, and for the preservation of the British interests in that quarter.

" Your Lordship will also observe from the tenor of this despatch, that my opinion of the necessity of supporting the cause of the Rajah of Travancore with the aid of our troops is founded on the obligations of treaty, combined with the importance of maintaining and improving our political connection with the State."

A copy of this letter was transmitted to the Resident by Lord William Bentinck and the Resident, after consulting Valu Thamby, submitted the correspondence to the Maha Rajah.

The Dewan's opinion was in favour of a revision of the existing treaty introducing special terms for the internal defence of Travancore. But he was not at all inclined to support any proposal for the augmentation of the subsidy. The Maha Rajah and his advisers were opposed to any new arrangements being introduced, and thus the consideration of the question of making a new treaty was postponed.

The Dewan and the Resident's agent had to wait upon the Maha Rajah and discuss the question often, and, at last, a draft treaty was framed by the Resident, in conjunction with the Dewan. A storm of opposition was raised in the palace when this draft was submitted by the Dewan to the Maha Rajah.

Valu Thamby Dalawah, however spared no pains in

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IV. persuading His Highness, in spite of all the evil counsels of the palace officials, &c., to ratify the new treaty, and Colonel Macaulay also strongly remonstrated with the Maha Rajah by letters, as well as by messages through the Resident's agent Ramalingum Moodeliar, but being opposed by the intriguing characters already referred to, His Highness hesitated a good deal to give his assent to the treaty. The controversy regarding this important matter lasted some days, and at last through the unceasing exertions of Valu Thamby Dalawah, and with the judicious counsel and advice of the Resident's agent Ramalingum Moodeliar, the proposed treaty was signed by His Highness the Maha Rajah on the 12th January 1805.

The following was the new treaty which is still in force :

"Treaty of perpetual friendship and alliance between
"the Honorable English East India Company Bahau-
"der and the Maha Rajah Bahauder of Travancore."

"Whereas the treaty concluded in the year 1795
"between the Honorable Company of Merchants of
"England trading with the East Indies, and His
"late Highness the Rajah of Travancore was
"intended to defend and protect the Travancore
"country against the foreign enemies and to strengthen
"and to fix the terms of the ancient friendship
"and alliance subsisting between the Company
"and the Rajah of Travancore, and whereas it is
"evident that the intentions of the contracting parties
"have not been duly fulfilled and whereas the said
"Company and His Highness the Rajah of Travancore
"have judged it expedient that additional provision
"should at this time be made for the purpose of sup-
"plying the defects in the said treaty and of
"establishing the connection between the said con-
"tracting parties on permanent bases of security in
"all times to come, therefore, in order to carry into
"effect the said intentions, the present treaty is
"concluded by Lieut.-Colonel Colin Macaulay, Resident

“at Travancore on the part and in the name of His CHAP.
 “Excellency the Most Noble Marquis Wellesley, K.P. IV.
 “and K.C., Governor-General in Council of all the
 “British possessions in the East Indies, and by His
 “Highness the Rajah of Travancore for himself,
 “agreeably to the following Articles which shall be
 “binding on the contracting parties as long as the sun
 “and moon shall endure.

“*Article I.*—The friends and enemies of either
 “of the contracting parties shall be considered as the
 “friends and enemies of both, the Honorable the East
 “India Company Bahauder especially engaging to
 “defend and protect the territories of the Maha Rajah
 “Rama Rajah Bahauder of Travancore against all
 “enemies whatever.”

“*Article II.*—Whereas by the seventh Article of
 “the treaty concluded in the year 1795 between the
 “Maha Rajah Rama Rajah Bahauder and the English
 “East India Company Bahauder, it was stipulated that
 “when the Company shall require any aid of his troops
 “to assist them in war it shall be incumbent on the
 “said reigning Rajah for the time being to furnish such
 “aid to such extent and in such numbers as may be
 “in his power from his regular infantry and cavalry,
 “exclusive of the native Nairs of his country, and the
 “Company now being willing to release the Rajah
 “from the obligation, it is hereby concluded and agreed
 “that the Rama Rajah Bahauder is for ever discharged
 “from aforesaid burthensome obligations.

“*Article III.*—In consideration of the stipula-
 “tions and release concluded in the first and second
 “Articles whereby the Company became liable to heavy
 “and constant expenses while great relief is afforded
 “to the revenues of the Rajah, His Highness engages
 “to pay annually to the said Company, a sum equiva-
 “lent to the expense of one regiment of the Honorable
 “Company’s native infantry, in addition to the sum
 “now payable by the said Rajah for the force subsisted
 “by His Highness by the third Article of the subsidiary

CHAP. "treaty of 1795, the said amount to be paid in six
IV. "equal instalments commencing from the first day of
 "January 1805 and His Highness further agrees, that
 "the disposal of the said sum together with the
 "arrangement and employment of the troops to be
 "maintained by it whether stationed within the Tra-
 "vancore country, or within the Company's districts
 "shall be left entirely to the Company.

"*Article IV.*—Should it become necessary for the
 "Company to employ a larger force than that which is
 "stipulated for in the preceding Article to protect the
 "territories of the said Maha Rajah against attack or
 "invasion, His Highness agrees to contribute jointly
 "with the Company towards the discharge of the
 "increased expense thereby occasioned, such a sum as
 "shall appear on an attentive consideration of the
 "means of His said Highness to bear a just and rea-
 "sonable proportion to the actual net revenue of His
 "said Highness.

"*Article V.*—Whereas it is indispensably necessary
 "that effectual and lasting security should be provided
 "against any failure in the funds destined to defray,
 "either the expenses of the permanent military force
 "in time of peace the extraordinary expenses described
 "in the preceding article of the present treaty, it is
 "hereby stipulated and agreed between the contracting
 "parties that whenever the Governor-General in Coun-
 "cil of Fort William in Bengal shall have reason to
 "apprehend such failure in the funds so destined, the
 "Governor-General in Council shall be at liberty, and
 "shall have full power and right either to introduce
 "such regulations and ordinances as he shall deem
 "expedient for the mutual management and collections
 "of revenues, or for the better ordering of any other
 "branch and department of the Government of Tra-
 "vancore or to assume and bring under the direct
 "management of the servants of the said Company
 "Bahauder, such part or parts of the territorial posses-
 "sions of His Highness the Maha Rajah Ram Rajah

“ Bahauder as shall appear to him (the Governor-General CHAP.
 “ in Council) necessary to reduce the said fund efficient IV.
 “ and available either in time of peace or war.

“ Article VI.—And it is hereby further agreed that
 “ whenever the said Governor-General in Council
 “ shall signify to the Maha Rajah Ram Bahauder that
 “ it is become necessary to carry into effect the provi-
 “ sions of the fifth Article, His said Highness Maha
 “ Rajah Rama Rajah Bahauder shall immediately issue
 “ orders to his amils or other officers, either for carry-
 “ ing into effect the said regulations or ordinances
 “ according to the terms of the fifth Article, or for
 “ placing the territories required under the exclusive
 “ authority and control of the English Company
 “ Bahauder, and in case His Highness shall not issue
 “ orders within ten days from the time when the appli-
 “ cation shall have been formally made to him, then
 “ the said Governor-General shall be at liberty to issue
 “ orders by his own authority either for carrying into
 “ effect the said regulations and ordinances, or for
 “ assuming the management and collection of the
 “ revenues of the said territories as he shall judge
 “ expedient for the purpose of securing the efficiency
 “ of the said military funds and of providing for the
 “ effectual protection of the country and welfare of
 “ the people, provided always that whenever and so
 “ long as any part or parts of His said Highness’
 “ territories shall be placed and shall remain under
 “ the exclusive authority and control of the said East
 “ India Company. The Governor-General in Council
 “ shall render to His Excellency a true and faithful
 “ account of the revenue and produce of the territories
 “ so assumed, provided also that in case whenever
 “ His Highness’ actual receipt or annual income
 “ arising out of his territorial revenues be less than
 “ the sum of two lacs of rupees, together with the one-
 “ fifth of the net revenue, of the whole of his territories
 “ which sum of two lacs of rupees together with the
 “ amount of one-fifth of the said revenue, the East
 “ India Company engages at all times and in every

CHAP. "possible case to secure and cause to be paid for His
IV. "Highness' use.

"*Article VII.*—His Highness the Maha Rajah "Rama Rajah Bahauder engages that he will be guided "by a sincere and cordial attention to the relations of "peace and amity established between the English "Company and their allies and that he will carefully "abstain from any interference in the affairs of any "State in alliance with the said English Company "Bahauder or of any State whatever, and for securing "the object of this stipulation it is further stipulated and "agreed that no communication or correspondence with "any foreign State whatever should be holden by His "said Highness without the previous knowledge and "sanction of the said English Company Bahauder.

"*Article VIII.*—His Highness stipulates and "agrees that he will not admit any European "foreigners into his service without the concurrence "of the English Company Bahauder and that he will "apprehend and deliver to the Company's Govern- "ment all Europeans of whatever description who "shall be found within the territories of His said "Highness without regular passport from the British "Government, it being His Highness' determined "resolution not to suffer even for a day any Europeans "to remain within his territories unless by the con- "sent of the said Company.

"*Article IX.*—Such parts of the treaty (A.D. 1795), "one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five between "the English East India Company and the late Rajah "of Travancore as are calculated to strengthen the "alliance, to cement the friendship and to identify "the interest of the contracting parties, are hereby "received and confirmed, and accordingly His High- "ness hereby promises to pay at all times the utmost "attention to such advice as the English Government "shall occasionally judge it necessary to offer him with "a view to the recovering of his finances, the better "collection of his revenues the administration of jus-

“ tice, the extension of commerce, the encouragement
 “ of trade, agriculture and industry, or any other
 “ objects connected with the advancement of His
 “ Highness’ interests, the happiness of his people, and
 “ the mutual welfare of both the States.

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“ Article X.—This treaty consisting of ten Articles
 “ being this day, the 12th day of January 1805, settled
 “ and concluded at the fortress of Theeroovanantha.
 “ poorum in Travancore by Lieut.-Colonel Colin
 “ Macaulay in behalf and in the name of His Excellency
 “ the Most Noble Marquis Wellesley, Governor-General
 “ in Council, with the Maha Rajah Raina Rajah Bahau-
 “ der, he has delivered to the said Maba Rajah Rama
 “ Rajah Bahauder, one copy of the same English and
 “ Persian, signed and sealed by him, and His Highness
 “ the Maha Rajah has delivered to the Lieut.-Colonel
 “ aforesaid another copy also in Persian and English,
 “ bearing the seal and signature, and signed and sealed
 “ by Valu Thamby, Dewan to the Maha Rajah afore-
 “ said, and the Lieut.-Colonel aforesaid has engaged
 “ to procure and deliver to the said Maha Rajah with-
 “ out delay a copy of the same under the seal and
 “ signature of His Excellency the Most Noble Marquis
 “ Wellesley, Governor-General in Council, on the receipt
 “ of which by the said Maha Rajah the present treaty
 “ shall be deemed complete and binding on the
 “ Honorable Company and on the Maha Rajah Rama
 “ Rajah Bahauder and the copy of it now delivered to
 “ the said Maha Rajah shall be returned.”

(Signed) C. MACAULY,
Resident at Travancore.

To the facts connected with this important subject,
 the following correspondence will bear testimony.

“ I cannot finish my letter to Lord Wellesley until
 I first receive an answer to the following question :

“ Wait upon the minister this evening, and let him
 “ come to me with the Rajah’s answer to the question

CHAP. " which His Highness' conduct this day makes it
IV. " necessary to ask before I see Mr. D'Vegas.

" Is it the determination of the Rama Rajah to
 " refuse entering into a new treaty with the East
 " India Company ? Yes or no ?"

Major Macaulay to Ramalingum Moodeliar.

" Wait upon the Rajah with the letter I send, and
 " explain it to him distinctly. They are positively
 " mad ; tell the Rajah that in case he thinks proper to
 " continue to avert his engagements and to oppose
 " himself to the wish of the Government it may
 " become my duty to publish a proclamation ; my wish
 " has been and still is to preserve His Highness'
 " house in honor and dignity and it is to be ardently
 " hoped that for the sake of half-a-dozen of * * * * *
 " His Highness may not reduce the Government to
 " the necessity of considering His Highness in any
 " other light than that of a friend and an ally."

Major Macaulay to Ramalingum Moodeliar.

" The Dewan and myself waited upon His Highness
 " not sooner than three o'clock this morning, (it was
 " the lucky hour fixed by His Highness to receive his
 " Dewan) and returned just this moment. I have
 " delivered your message to him, and he fixed the
 " hour for you to see him at two o'clock this afternoon.
 " In the course of conversation, I seized opportunity
 " and used my utmost endeavours to explain him for
 " his own good and his country, the ready compliance
 " of the orders of the Government through you. I
 " gave several instances and opened his eyes stating
 " the bad consequence he had to expect on the con-
 " trary ; he appeared as really convinced of it, pro-
 " mised in presence of his Dewan to place a faithful
 " confidence in all my advice (as he always heretofore
 " has done in many critical times) and pay a due
 " attention to your recommendation, and obedience to
 " the order of the Government. For my part I

"assured that my advice always will be good for the safety of him and his country, and your recommendation will always be to promote his interest as well as the country; then the Dewan, (Valu Thamby) confirmed my advice and expressed his opinion that it is proper he should not hesitate to sign any agreement that you may think proper to present him as any delay makes more confusion in the country; he answered anything offered by you shall be duly attended to, by all this I have every reason to believe that His Highness, (if he possess the same heart) will not hesitate to sign the treaty when presented, but I think the delay will be only for obtaining a lucky hour."

Ramalingum Moodiliar to Colonel Macaulay.

7th January 1805.

That the delay in signing the treaty irritated Lieut.-Colonel Macaulay may be inferred from the fact of a British force under Major-General MacDowell having been ordered to march from Tinnevelly to Travancore. As the following extract from the despatch of the 8th January 1805 of the Resident to the Governor-General in Council will show:—

"The Dewan having expressed an earnest hope that the army under Major-General MacDowell should not enter the lines pending the discussions I have acquainted, in consequence of his promise and of my confident hope that all the points enjoined by His Excellency's instructions will be amicably adjusted, General MacDowell has been therefore requested to suspend his movements agreeably to the enclosed copy of my letter to that officer under date the 4th instant.

"His Excellency has been already informed of the objections urged by the Dewan to my considerable increase to the subsidy.

"In the conference of yesterday with His Highness these objections were again offered by His Highness

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“ The Dewan had strongly pressed upon my attention the difficulty of making good with their alleged deficient means of the payment of four additional lacs per annum. He would, he said, in proof of this deliver to me an authenticated statement of the receipts and disbursements of this country. I expressed much satisfaction at the disposition now manifested for the first time since my residence at this court, of fairly laying open the situation of their affairs. When this statement was received and examined, the whole subject would most undoubtedly meet with a deliberate and indulgent consideration from the Government.

“ In the meantime until such statement should be prepared and received, it seemed advisable that a sum equal to the expense of one regiment of native infantry be inserted in the treaty.

“ Under these circumstances it will be for His Excellency's considerations whether it might not appear to His Excellency to be advisable to authorise a remission of the payment of one-half of the amount of the additional subsidy for the period of one year from the conclusion of the treaty.”

The pressure brought to bear upon the Maha Rajah may be inferred from the above letters. It requires no comment from us as some of the best English historians* of eminence and authority have thus recorded their views on this transaction with Travancore :—“ The proceedings in Travancore were, in truth, among the least justifiable of the many questionable transactions by which the British power in India has been acquired or preserved. The protection of the Rajah was, in the first instance, generous and politic ; the military command of his country, subsequently was necessary for objects of British policy, and was not incompatible with the pacific interests of the Rajah and prosperity of his limited dominion. To impose upon

* Mill and Wilson.

him the maintenance of a force infinitely more numerous than was necessary for the defence of the country, and the cost of which heavily taxed its resources, to urge the exaction with unrelenting vigour, and to resent with unpitying vengeance, the passions excited by a deep sense of national wrong among a semi-barbarous and demoralized race, were unworthy of the character of the British nation for justice and generosity, of the civilization it had attained, and the religion it professed."

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The subsequent ceremonies connected with the accession of the Maha Rajah to the musnud and the difficulty of collecting revenues, in consequence of the continued disturbances above described, caused heavy financial embarrassments, and therefore the State was unable even to pay off the subsidy, in accordance with the treaty of 1795. But now the doubling of the subsidy made the burden simply intolerable. The Dewan found it necessary to seek even a temporary relief. With this view, a proposal was made to the Resident to allow the enhanced subsidy of four lacs a year to be paid in four instalments, as such a large sum of money could not be raised in one year by any measure of retrenchment. The chief retrenchment the Dewan thought fit to make was the disbanding of the Carnatic brigade. Colonel Macaulay, who was closely acquainted with the state of the finances, considered the Dewan's proposal reasonable, and recommended it to the Supreme Government.

Extract from a Despatch, dated 13th January 1805.

"Fifth.—The provisions of the treaty now concluded will I trust be found to correspond with the whole tenor of His Excellency's commands, and particularly to the 19th paragraph of your despatch of the 17th ultimo, the stipulations seem essential to the interests of the British Government and the Rajah of Travancore, and they are entirely consistent with the obligations of justice and propriety.

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Sixth.—My sentiments respecting the increase to
“the subsidy have been already in general submitted,
“but as the retrenchments, reforms, and improvements
“proposed to be gradually introduced here, cannot be
“expected to produce their full effect for nearly two
“years ; it might be expedient to extend the remission
“of the payment of one-half of the additional subsidy
“for two complete years.

Seventh.—One of the chief retrenchments in the
“expenditure of this country is proposed to be imme-
“diately made by reducing the brigade of Carnatic
“sepoys, commanded by Colonel Daly, this reduction
“may relieve the finances of His Highness to the amount
“of nearly one-and-a-half lacs of Rupees per annum, in
“the event of His Highness accomplishing this measure,
“the future situation of the European officers attached
“to the brigade will be for consideratcn.”

The above proposal was, in a measure, acceded to by the Supreme Government.

The disbandment of the Carnatic brigade, the Maha Rajah considered derogatory to His Highness' position, and so he allowed the force to continue ; but the Madras Government would not permit this. Their opinion was that “the Maha Rajah's observation that the discharge of the brigade would now be derogatory to his dignity and indicative of the diminished confidence on the part of the British Government in his attachment and fidelity appears to us to be devoid of solid foundation ; but even admitting the contrary, justice surely requires that the Maha Rajah should submit to the inconvenience rather than expect from the British Government a sacrifice, the claim to which originates exclusively, in a concession previously made in his favour at a considerable loss to the Company, and which is supported by arguments deduced from His Highness' wilful disregard of a corresponding obligation.”

On the 2nd May, the treaty was ratified by the Governor-General and was returned to the Resident

for delivery to the Maha Rajah, and the Resident adopted measures in communication with the Dewan to make grand preparations for the occasion. Anjengo was nominated as the place for the ceremony.

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Agreeably to the wishes of the Resident, the Dalawah made grand preparations for the Maha Rajah's procession to Anjengo. All the officers of the State escorted the Maha Rajah to the place and the delivery of the treaty was marked as a State ceremony. The Dewan acting as master of the ceremonies and moving about in his gorgeous State dress presented by the Governor-General, was particularly observed by his enemies, on this occasion.

After the return of the Maha Rajah to Trevandrum, the news of the signing of the treaty soon spread throughout the country, and the disaffection increased and the indignation of the people was rekindled.

Valu Thamby Dalawah proceeded to Alleppey; but before his departure he noticed strong symptoms of dissatisfaction and displeasure generally among the officers, and the sovereign himself was no exception; many remarked without any ceremony, "that they were now convinced of the object the Dalawah had in view and of his reason for joining the Resident, and that they little expected that any of the Travancore Rajah's faithful subjects would have ever made such an attempt."

The Dalawah felt considerably hurt on hearing such unjust remarks so freely made in the palace, while he was all the time devoting his entire attention to adopt measures for strengthening the protection of the kingdom. The Dalawah lost all confidence in his subordinates, while almost all the influential officials turned against him.

He stayed a short time at Alleppey and then proceeded to Trevandrum, and he resolved upon proving to the Maha Rajah that he was no friend to the British cause, and that he suggested no measures in order to

CHAP. serve his private interests. To attain this end, he
IV. actually held a meeting of all the officers, and explained to them the necessity and advisability of the new treaty though he perfectly concurred with them in the injurious consequences of the augmentation of the subsidy. But nevertheless there was a fresh outbreak of indignation.

While matters were thus going on in Travancore, Colonel Macaulay observed in his report of the ceremony at Anjengo to the Governor-General that "to explain the degree of joy visible in the countenance and demeanour of His Highness and of his court upon this important event, so essential to the welfare of Travancore would be difficult; their gratification appeared complete;" and, at the same time, Colonel Macaulay assured his Government that "the practical benefit resulting to the Rajah and to all classes of the subjects by the provisions of that treaty appeared to be duly appreciated by His Highness. He seems now perfectly sensible that so far from having any tendency to impair his confidence and authority, it is on the contrary calculated to raise the one and to strengthen the other, not only in the view of his subjects, but also in His Highness' own estimation" and it was added that "the Dewan continues to conduct the general administration of the concerns of the State with his usual ability and address, grounded on the firmest integrity and on a disposition ardently ambitious of advancing the joint interests of his master and that of the Honorable Company. The chief obstacle to the practical reform of some inveterate abuses in the financial administration results from that system of peculation and corruption so long and so generally prevalent on this coast. Ever since the period of his elevation to the post of prime minister, he appears to have invariably regulated his conduct by principles of rectitude and probity in every measure connected with finance. He forms a very singular and honorable exception to the general depravity."

Valu Thamby Dalawah returned to Alleppey and strove hard to persuade the Maha Rajah and the officers through Sthanapathy Suba Iyen and the English Interpreter, Mr. D'Veigas to reconcile themselves to the new treaty, which he assured them will do no harm to the interests of Travancore. As the Dalawah had already secured the Government's sanction for the remission of half of the increased subsidy for two years, he was sanguine that he would be able to obtain a permanent remission of half of the newly increased sum. At the same time, he employed all his energy towards collecting the arrears of revenue to pay off the arrears of subsidy.

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Suba Iyen's and Mr. D'Veigas' mission entirely failed. The Maha Rajah not only remonstrated with them against the Dewan's proceedings but also intimated to them his intention of complaining against Colonel Macaulay to the Government.

On the Dalawah's pressing in the name of the Maha Rajah, for the permanent remission of half of the increased subsidy the resident observed "clearly and finally, that it is wholly and absolutely out of my power to propose in any case a continuance of that remission which was granted for two years. I also further inform you that Government is resolved on compelling the Rajah to execute the stipulation of the treaty, if compulsion be rendered necessary, Government being entirely satisfied of the justice of such proceeding, if disturbances be excited on account of * * * * *." The Dewan despairing of success dropped the subject altogether, without bringing his failure to the notice of the Maha Rajah.

Sthanapathy Suba Iyen and Mr. D'Veigas appear to have communicated to Colonel Macaulay the observations of the Maha Rajah during their interview with him, and the Resident in a letter to the Dalawah, said: "I am surprised to hear for the first time, that the Maha Rajah had any grievances, while he stands in this happy and amiable situation."

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In this interval, the Resident pressed the Dewan for the payment of the arrears of subsidy, and the Sircar, embarrassed by pecuniary difficulties delayed payment. The Resident considered this delay unjustifiable, and believing that the Dewan did not intend paying the arrears, especially as he had been applying for the entire remission of a part of the enhanced subsidy, a misunderstanding arose between them.

In February 1807, Colonel Macaulay wrote the following letter to Sthanapathy Suba Iyen, which reveals the fact of the breach between the minister and the British representative :—

“ TRAVANCORE, 18th February 1807.

“ Soobiah,

“ Day after day such ludicrous things are said “ that when I reflect seriously upon the future, I “ almost despair. I do not however judge of people, “ either when they say wrong or when they say right, “ by their saying merely. I wait to see if they carry “ the sayings into practice.

“ If the minister ultimately injure himself he will “ do so (after this explanation), with his eyes open.

“ Very soon after the conclusion of the late treaty, “ I assured the Rajah that notwithstanding the treaty, “ no change would take place. In proof of the truth “ of this assurance, I gave him a ring as a solemn “ pledge to remain with him and to be handed down “ to his successor, in order that each time they looked “ at the ring, they might repose an implicit confidence “ in the assurance given by the Resident who nego- “ tiated the treaty. But what did this imply? The “ explanation and the right understanding of that “ point is important. I suspected that there might “ lurk in the Rajah’s mind much uneasiness respecting “ that stipulation in the treaty which empowers the “ Company to assume the country. I resolved there- “ fore to remove all uneasiness upon that score, and “ I assured him that there would be no such change,

"that is, that the country never would be assumed by
 "the Company or at all taken out of the Rajah's
 "management, such was the object and the extent of
 "the pledge made to His Highness—how, it may be
 "asked, came I to be so positive in such an assur-
 "ance? for the following plain and simple reason :

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"By the treaty *the Sircar is bound* to follow the
 "advice of the British Government in all cases whatso-
 "ever, for the benefit of the country and people, the
 "Resident under this comprehensive stipulation
 "possessing the right of interfering by advice, enjoys
 "the means of correcting errors, obviating failures,
 "regulating justice, &c., and thereby removing all
 "pretext for assuming the country or rather rendering
 "the consideration even of such an extreme measure
 "for ever and for ever unnecessary.

"But again, it may be asked, what security has the
 "Resident, that his advice will be followed? Why
 "simply this—should any minister of this country be
 "daring enough to resist his advice when sanctioned
 "by Government—the Rajah and the Resident will
 "lay hold of that minister and throw him into the
 "Valiatoray* surf and proceed in the same manner
 "towards every succeeding minister who should design
 "the ruin of his master.

"Should it again be supposed that there may come
 "a Rajah who, to save a minister, would risk his own
 "musnud, I have no observation to make upon such
 "a case—the consequences are obvious to every one.

"Finally, it might possibly be asked, if the Resident
 "possess such power, why has he not during the last
 "two years had recourse to the Valiatoray surf,
 "against those who not only slighted his advice, but
 "who everywhere openly and secretly set him at
 "defiance?

"The answer to this last question could be given in
 "a few clear and plain sentences, but I have said, that

* A port about Trevandrum.

CHAP. "I overlook the past—and nothing but necessity, a
IV. "necessity originating with others shall ever bring me
 "to refer to those subjects.

"This letter contains matters of high importance,
 "it must be distinctly explained to the minister and
 "impressed upon his mind. I also keep a copy of it."

Your's very obedient servant,
 (Signed) C. MACAULY.

Up to the 30th March not even a part of the arrears of subsidy having reached the Resident's treasury, notwithstanding all the Resident's remonstrances and his disagreeable correspondence with the Dewan, the Resident was enraged, and wrote on the 23rd April that he had long submitted to the Dewan's impositions, and that he would not now accept any reply from, or by the Dewan, directly or indirectly. In one of the Resident's letters, dated the 10th April, he said that the Dewan "is a temporizing, equivocating, prevaricating and marauding boy."

This highly objectionable language employed against a person like the Dewan, filled him with indignation, and he resolved not to hold office as long as Colonel Macauly represented the Honorable Company in Travancore, and he gave the Resident to understand that he would rather give up his appointment than be exposed to such vile and humiliating treatment.

Taking advantage of this threat of the Dewan, the Resident wrote to Government on the 28th April, "that the Dewan was afflicted with a complaint which sometimes laid him up; that the Dewan himself had informed him that he was unable to conduct the duties of his office, and requested to be relieved, and that unless he be relieved, it is certain that the poor Rajah will be likely to be injured."

At this critical time, Colonel Macauly espoused the cause of Mathoo Tharaken, the notorious Syrian Christian contractor, one of the intriguers alluded to in the commencement of this reign, who had both of his ears

cut during the insurrection of 1799, and who was a merchant prince in Travancore, possessing large estates in almost all the northern districts of that country. He had been restored to his former state of influence, subsequent to his being relieved from his late troubles, and his lands were confiscated by the order of the Sircar for non-payment of taxes.

On account of the incessant pressure of the Resident for payment of arrears of subsidy, the Dalawah as has been already said, was necessitated to leave no stone unturned in his endeavours to recover oldstanding revenue arrears. This remarkable landlord, Mathoo Tharaken, had not paid his tax on the lands possessed by him for some years. When called upon to pay the arrears, the Tharaken possessing the influence of the Resident, thought of obtaining a remission, on the plea, that he was imprisoned by the Sircar for some time, and that some of his goods had been confiscated and its value misappropriated by Valu Thamby. The Dewan would not admit this plea, and regardless of the Tharaken's attachment to Colonel Macaulay he issued orders for the confiscation of those lands belonging to the Tharaken, on which the tax had not been paid. The Tharaken complained to the Resident, and Colonel Macaulay requested the Dewan to cancel his orders. The Dewan reasonably delayed to attend to this requisition, and submitted a full explanation to the Resident on the subject of the Tharaken's arrears fully justifying his proceedings in regard to the confiscation of the lands. A good deal of correspondence passed between the Resident and the Dewan on this subject.

The view taken by Colonel Macaulay of this proceeding of the Dewan, will be apparent from the following correspondence.

In a letter to Mr. D'Veigas, the Colonel says that the Dewan's proceeding in regard to the confiscation of the Tharaken's lands for arrears of tax "was dictated by a spirit of the most base treachery and

CHAP. IV. tyranny," and that, if arrears of tax arose from the negligence of the Sircar, it should not reap any advantage from its own wrong and wilful negligence. The resident also adds that in the event of the Dewan's orders not being recalled :—" I solemnly declare that I will interfere in a way that will make him surely repent his conduct."

In his official of the 12th May 1807, the Resident writes to the Dewan : "you have desired Suba Iyen to intimate to me, through Mr. D'Veigas that you had taken upon yourself to issue orders to insist on Tharakken's paying what it is alleged that he owes for hilly grounds, &c. This intimation coming from you in their naked shape without any the most trivial document to support the ground you have taken, is (under the peculiar circumstances of Mathoo Tharakken's situation), very highly improper, irregular, and contrary to your bounden duty. You must withdraw those orders and transmit to me the reports of the different Kariakars, who reported to you the failures of Mathoo Tharakken, in order that the business may be regularly investigated, and the Kariakars called here to give evidence of the truth of their statement. Any other line of proceeeding must be * * * * I will not allow you, from motives of base enmity to crush any man (though your subject or dependant) if I can possibly and honourably prevent it. What need I say more?"

The Dewan now found it impossible to rely on the Resident's support, and thought it politic to concert measures to side entirely with the popular party. He also conceived a mortal enmity and hatred against Colonel Macaulay and not against the Company's Government as some historians would have us believe.

Matters now began to approach a crisis. Colonel Macaulay was determined to oust the Dewan from office. Though he was prepared to retire, he persisted in holding the reins of Government, simply because he knew the Resident was trying to get him out.

He convinced the Maha Rajah that the Resident's motive in endeavouring to cause his removal, was to confirm the increased subsidy and trouble His Highness for the immediate payment of the arrears. The Maha Rajah and his councillors now found that it would be injudicious to dispense with the services of such a man as Valu Thamby, who would not only be of great service on such a trying occasion, but would also be useful as a scape-goat, under unfavorable circumstances.

Colonel Macauly seems to have adopted all possible and practicable measures to compel the Dewan to resign. The minister was addressed in the most offensive terms imputing to him the vilest motives even in the ordinary transaction of public business. The Resident interfered with even the most trivial details of internal administration, and almost every letter of Colonel Macauly, on such occasions, was couched in insufferably vituperative language, the whole culminating in an intimation from the Resident that "he had formed a positive and final determination concerning Valu Thamby." This determination was, that Valu Thamby should retire from public life, and take up his residence in Cherakel, on a pension of 500 rupees per mensem, which he was to receive from Mr. Baber, the Collector of Malabar.

All these particulars were communicated in detail to the Maha Rajah, and though of a quiet and placable disposition, and seldom prone to anger, His Highness was much offended at the conduct of the Resident. Valu Thamby had no inclination to disconnect himself from the Maha Rajah's service. Neither did His Highness wish him to do so. His Highness tried his best to bring about a reconciliation between the Dewan and the Resident, but without success, as Colonel Macauly was a man of a vindictive nature, fond of command, of an imperious temper, and one who could ill-brook contradiction. On the other hand, Valu Thamby was of a haughty and arrogant disposition, of great reso-

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lution, and so sensitive that he would put up with insolence and affront from no man. His Highness was sadly disappointed, but it was not a matter for surprise that the attempt to reconcile two men who were so bitterly opposed to each other failed.

The Maha Rajah complained in strong language against the Resident to the Madras Government, and His Highness solicited the favor of their appointing another Resident in the room of Colonel Macaulay. His Highness submitted that his Dewan Valu Thamby performed his duties with due diligence and with the utmost fidelity, and yet the Resident was pressing on His Highness to dismiss him, a step which he was quite unwilling to take; and that the delay in discharging the arrears of subsidy was on account of the unsatisfactory state of the finances but that, nevertheless, His Highness had adopted measures for the payment of a part of the arrears without delay.

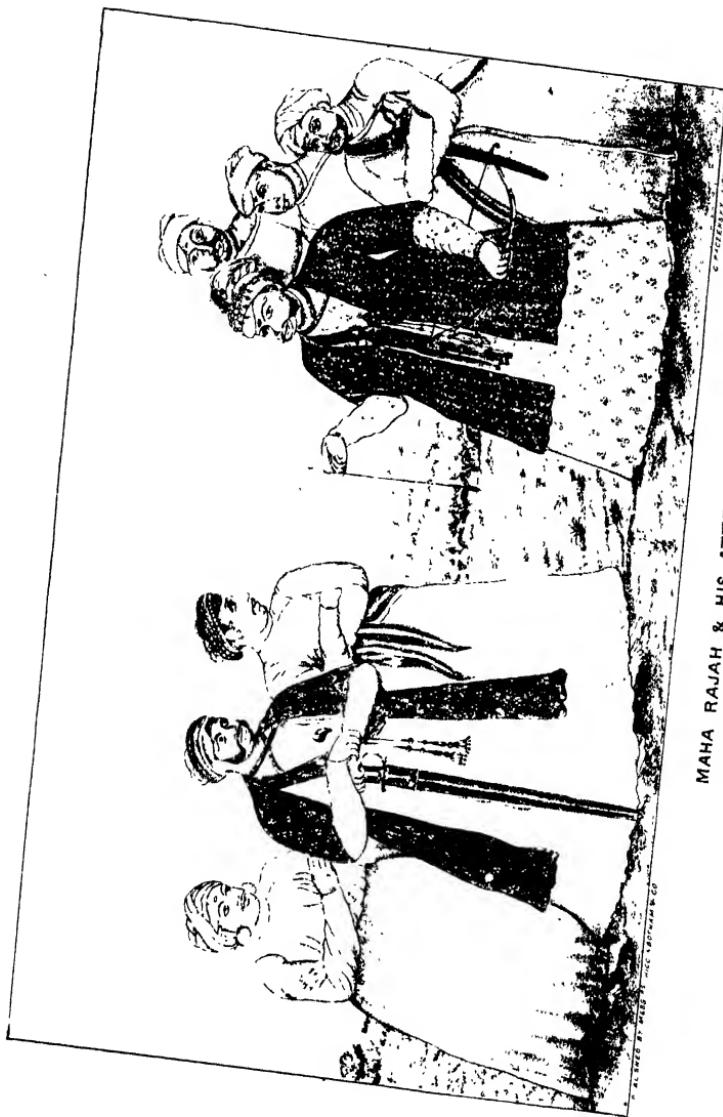
The above letter was followed by the payment of a moiety of the promised subsidy which was obtained by mortgaging most of the Crown jewels. On this being reported, the Government directed some relaxation of the demands.

The payment of the residue of the arrears was again delayed, and the Resident came down upon the Dewan most severely, on that ground. The Maha Rajah again complained and urged that the new treaty which was forced upon him by the Resident was unbearable, and that though the Dewan was straining every nerve to meet the demand, he was considerably hampered in his efforts by the unwarrantable interference of the Resident. His Highness therefore again requested the recall of Colonel Macaulay, and the appointment of a new Resident.

On hearing these repeated complaints of the Maha Rajah, the dismissal of the Dewan was again peremptorily urged by the Resident.

Seeing the unreasonableness of the Resident's requisition, while the Dewan was working hard to meet the

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demands of the British Government, thus manifesting a rare integrity to which the Resident himself had already borne distinguished testimony, the Maha Rajah was astonished in no small degree. But being of a weak disposition, he considered it advisable not to interfere in the affair and left the Dewan and the Resident to settle matters between themselves.

The spirit of the offended minister was now roused and he was resolved to wreak his vengeance upon the British Resident.

Sthanapathy Suba Iyen, the medium of personal communication between His Highness the Maha Rajah and the Resident, took a great interest in promoting the good understanding between the Maha Rajah and Colonel Macaulay, as he well knew the state of affairs at that time, and there had been frequent messages between the palace and the residency at which the Dewan took umbrage.

Suba Iyen paid a visit to the Dewan at Alleppey, perhaps with a message from the Maha Rajah, and on a certain night while he was engaged in a private conference with the Dewan he, (Suba Iyen) retired to the garden at about midnight. But, alas ! he never returned. He appears to have been seized by the Dewan's people and strangled to death, and a report was given out that Suba Iyen died by snake bite, while he was in the garden.

While matters were in such a state in Travancore, the then reigning sovereign of Cochin, an extremely quiet and easy going Prince, was over-ridden by his prime minister Paliathu Menon (commonly called Paliathu Atchen), who assumed the supreme rule, reduced the Rajah to a mere cypher, and compelled the Prince to reside in a small village called Vellarapilli, north-east of Alwaye.

The minister, Paliathu Menon, was a bitter enemy of the ex-minister of the deceased Rajah of that State and of his commander-in-chief. Both those officers were

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Paliathu Menon, on assuming power, seized both those officers and drowned them in the middle of the river, near Chanamangalom, and after this inhuman act, he attempted to destroy, in a similar way, a promising young man of great talent and intelligence, whom the reigning Rajah had trained up from his infancy and made a deserving candidate for the premiership. The name of this person was Nadavaram-pathu Cunju Krishna Menon, who was afterwards Sarvadhidhikariakar or prime minister of Cochin. It will be also of interest to know that he was the father of the lady of the present Maha Rajah of Travancore.

Paliathu Menon adopted every possible means for seizing Cunju Krishna Menon, and the Rajah was actually obliged to lock him up in his own bed chamber at Vellarapilli for some days, to save his life. The Rajah opportunely sent an express messenger to Colonel Macauly, requesting him to grant His Highness an immediate interview in private. At the meeting, the Rajah handed over Cunju Krishna Menon to Colonel Macauly, requesting him to protect the young man's life against the cruel machinations of his minister, Paliathu Menon. Colonel Macauly gave his assurance to the Rajah, and took the young Menon along with him to the town of Cochin and protected him in his own residence.

On hearing these particulars, Paliathu Menon was greatly exasperated and swore that he would destroy Colonel Macauly and Cunju Krishna Menon together, and in order to accomplish this design, Paliathu Menon plotted measures, and resolved to gain over the disaffected Travancore ministry, for, almost all the Travancore officials the Menon knew were ill-disposed towards Colonel Macauly, and that he could thus easily make the Travancoreans the cat's-paw for carrying out his evil designs.

Paliathu Menon deputed a private messenger to CHAP.
Quilon, with a secret despatch to Valu Thamby Dala-
wah and the leaders of the disaffected military, pro-
posing to them the massacre of the British Resident
and his small garrison in the fort at Cochin, and
offering his co-operation in the affair.

These officials were delighted at such a desirable proposal from the Cochin minister, and Valu Thamby, from his own vanity, thoughtlessness and desire of revenge agreed to the proposal, and a programme was arranged between the two ministers. A short account of this, has been thus recorded by Lieutenant Horsley : " We are unable to trace the successive steps that led " to the war, or more properly the insurrection which " took place in 1808 ; but it is perhaps to be attributed " less to the people in general who had everything to " lose from any change which should extinguish " British influence, than to the Rajah and to his " principal native servants, provoked as they were at " a control that threatened to moderate their excesses. " The Cochin minister seems to have been implicated " in those transactions. The character of this " personage and the cautious manner in which he " conducted these measures, countenance suspicion, " that he was one of the most zealous and artful " promoters of the troubles that ensued."

The Dewan now determined to resort to hostilities though in a covert way. He issued secret orders for the recruiting of Nairs and people of other castes and the strengthening of fortifications and the storing of ammunition. He wrote to the Isle of France and the Zamorin of Calicut for aid, and warlike preparations were made by the Cochin minister Paliathu Menon.

The Resident little knew of these internal arrangements. He continued, as usual, to press the Dewan and the Maha Rajah for the payment of arrears. The Madras Government continued their demand upon the Maha Rajah for immediate payment.

The Dewan had by this time formed the resolution

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of assassinating the Resident. But he still feigned that he was using all his endeavours to cause the early payment of arrears and on the Resident's demanding either the liquidation of the amount or a change in the ministry, the Dewan pretended that he was on the point of retiring, and wrote to Colonel Macaulay that he would start for Calicut and take up his residence there on a pension, and asked him for a party of British troops to escort him thither, his object being to draw the best part of the Resident's escort from Cochin to Alleppey, where the Dewan was then located.

Valu Thamby issued orders to the garrison at Alleppey and Paravoor and sent a detachment from Quilon preparatory to making a sudden descent upon the fort at Cochin for the massacre of the Resident together with Cunju Krishna Menon, arranging at the same time for the attack on the British garrison at Quilon, which was stationed there under the command of Colonel Chalmers.

The detachment moved from Quilon and Alleppey in covered boats, accompanied by Vycome Padmanabha Pillay, an intimate friend of the Dewan, who acted as his chief secretary, and the troops collected in the northern districts under the command of Cunju Cuty Pillay Sarvadikariakar, stationed at Alangaud, also moved in covered boats to Cochin and both the forces effected a junction at Calvathi, at about midnight on the 28th December. They surrounded Colonel Macaulay's house and opened fire. The sudden report of musketry, at an unusual hour, surprised Colonel Macaulay, and with the assistance of a confidential Portuguese clerk, he managed to conceal himself, and in the morning got on board a pattima² at first, and subsequently on board the British ship "Piedmontese" which had just reached the Cochin roads, Cunju Krishna Menon also effected his escape uninjured, and joined Colonel Macaulay on board the ship.

The Travancore sepoys overpowered the few British sepoys who formed the Resident's escort, killing many

who resisted, and afterwards entered Colonel Macauly's residence, ransacked the house, murdered the domestic servants and others whom they found in the house, and afterwards returned considerably chagrined at not finding the Resident and Cunju Krishna Menon.

The disappointment, consequent on this attempt to murder Colonel Macauly, had cast a great gloom and dread among all the Travancore officials. Nevertheless, they prepared themselves for a defence against the attack which they expected every moment. They committed depredations in the town of Cochin, and returned to Travancore the next day. Valu Thamby foresaw the result and quitted Alleppey at once and proceeded to Quilon.

During this interval, three European military officers, including Surgeon Hume, together with a lady in one party, and twelve European soldiers of His Majesty's 12th Regiment, and thirty-three sepoys forming another party, were proceeding from Quilon to Cochin, and on coming near Poracaud, they were taken up by the military who had been scattered over those parts in large bodies, and who now began to exhibit a declared enmity towards the Company's people. In consultation with the ministerial officials stationed at Alleppey, all these were confined, the first party in the Poracaud bankshall, and the second at Alleppey. Subsequently the matter was reported to Valu Thamby Dalawah, with an application for his sanction for the immediate execution of those unfortunate and innocent men. The hard-hearted minister, who was a perfect stranger to mercy, sanctioned the wholesale murder of the helpless party without the least hesitation, and the unfortunate and unoffending men were all cruelly murdered there.* The three officers were butchered in cold blood at the sea-beach at Poracaud, and the

* This information was given to us by one Ramalingum, Major Sobudar of M. N. I. Regiment VI, who accompanied these three unfortunate gentlemen, and the sickly lady, and was present when they were murdered. He was then a dressing boy under Coronel Chalmers.

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European soldiers and sepoys were consigned to the bottom of the Pallathurthee river, on the eastern side of Alleppey. The lady was allowed to proceed to Cochin unhurt, it being contrary to the laws of Travancore to kill women, and she was besides in bad health, and many of the local officials pitied her weak and helpless condition.

The Resident lost no time in despatching a report to the Madras Government on the subject, and the following is an abstract of the report with which we were kindly furnished, together with a copy of the proclamation, issued under date the 15th January 1809, by the Government, by Mr. Ballard, the late British Resident in Travancore :—

“ For some days past, I had been engaged in negotiation with the Dewan at his own earnest solicitation, “ and had concluded everything to his own entire satisfaction, and was waiting only his arrival from Alleppey to carry into execution the measure upon which he had resolved on removing to Calicut, and had at his earnest request weakened the party with me to provide for his security, and had at his suggestion, placed my boats and palanquins in convenient places to take him on with comfort and expedition. When a little past midnight, a party of Nays to the number of about one thousand, headed by the Dewan’s confidential friend Pulpnabha Pillay and by the minister of the Rajah of Cochin, surrounded my house to prevent all escape, and commenced a smart fire of musketry at every opening, first disarming the guard and killing a few who attempted resistance, and then broke into the place to destroy me, their design was providentially and somewhat miraculously defeated, and after having broken open every place, and package, pillaging the house of the whole of my effects they withdrew at break of day, the chief inconvenience at present attending this proceeds from the loss of books of record and official papers, but as the Dewan has

“ now broken out into open rebellion, and will be likely to assemble his followers on every side in the hope of producing an impression on the subsidiary force, I have sent to Colonel Cuppage a request to embark without delay for Quilon all force that he can spare.” There had been a simultaneous attack on the subsidiary force at Quilon on the morning of the 29th December 1808. The Dewan arrived at Quilon, and encouraged the Travancore force concentrated thereabouts, and then proceeded to Kundaray, east of Quilon, whence he issued the following proclamation :—

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“ Whereas it is highly desirable to impress in the minds of the nobles, brahmans, officers of the State, Sudras, and all other classes of the nation, a clear idea of the nature and probable results of the measure now resolved upon as necessitated by the present critical occasion in which it is inevitable that Travancore cannot maintain itself unless its utmost energies are put forth, it is hereby promulgated.

“ That, never has this State been yet disturbed with any troubles nor subjected to question during the several thousand years comprising the period from the foundation of Malabar and Travancore by Parasu Ramen up to the close of Cheraman Perumal’s reign, nor during the sovereignty of the succeeding Thripada Swaroopam Dynasty.

“ That, the Maha Rajah who died in 933 M.E. foreseeing the evil days to come, and that his successor will not be able to keep the land, entrusted to their care safe from harm, made a gift of it, in due form (with flower and water) to Sree Padmanabha Swamy, and the country was to be governed by the succeeding Rajahs as the representatives of Padmanabha Swamy. In keeping within such a position, they preferred the practice of religious rites, austerities, to the personal enjoyment of worldly pleasure, and were always bent upon the welfare and happiness of the subjects ; and in order that the virtues and benefits accruing from

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such observance may always continue unabated, they initiated several religious ceremonies and practices for securing divine favour, established bhadradeepam, murajapam, sathrams or feeding houses, &c. Every one knows that it is for these reasons that in the present Kaliyuga there is not a single country from the Himalayas down to Cape Comorin which can rival Travancore as a land of charity. When Mahomed Ali had subdued and established his power at Arcot, Trichinopoly and the Deccan, it was stipulated that Travancore should send him an annual Nuzzoor of (6,000) six thousand Rupees and an elephant to preserve friendly relations with him, and the country has not been interfered with by any other power. While the land was thus in peace and tranquillity, two great powers appeared. Tippoo Sultan and the English East India Company. It was believed that of the two, the English East India Company was more to be relied on, and that they would not betray their trust, and in view to secure their friendship and assistance a very long time ago, they were allowed to build a fort and to establish themselves at Anjengo, and this led to hostilities breaking out with Tippoo Sultan, but we have known to our cost how our trust was betrayed, and our friendliness taken advantage of to bring harm upon us by this very English nation, who, as is well known to the whole world is unequalled for base ingratitude and treachery. Now see, what they have done. They gradually curtailed the power of the Nabob who gave them shelter and helped so much towards attaining their present importance, till they had destroyed his dynasty entirely and taken away his territories; next they laid hold of the neighbouring countries which were enjoying peace and comfort until at last the lights of their dwellings were extinguished, and themselves plunged into misery, and following up their treacherous inclination the English came over to Travancore; first, by craft, and then forcibly, they have taken steps to exterminate us from our land. We shall briefly mention here a few

of the steps pursued by them : When Tippoo Sultan made war upon us, we sought their aid against him ; they treacherously got out of us, taking advantage of our exigency, ten lacs of pagodas in return for the promised help. After this, partly by craft and partly by threats, they stipulated that we should pay them an annual subsidy of six lacs of Rupees promising at the same time that so long as Travancore and the English nation existed they would not ask for a chuckrum over and above the said sum, nor interfere with any act, however unimportant of the Travancore Government, and these terms were solemnly ratified in writing by the treaty of the year 968. While Travancore had been faithfully adhering to fulfil in all integrity the terms of the treaty, the English in violation of it, sent a Resident to reside here, and stationed three of their Regiments at Quilon, and like giving milk to a serpent, this Government had to build at its own cost barracks and dwelling-houses for the men of the Regiments, and in addition to put up to this day with all the acts of violence practised by them. A little after, in Magaram 980, the English Government demanded that two lacs of Rupees should be annually paid, beyond the sum stipulated before, and threatened in failure of this extra requisition being paid, to make war upon us, and actually brought down several pieces of cannon into different parts of the country. Seeing no other means of getting over the difficult position, the Government of His Highness yielded to the impending calamitous fate and paid the extra two lacs also. But the English Government were not satisfied even with all these concessions, and the point they next assumed reached the unreasonable and unwarrantable climax, of requiring the abolition of all religious and charitable institutions, and the disbanding of the armies of the country and payment to themselves of the money that would be saved thereby ; it was required further that the Resident, Colonel Macaulay, should be consulted and communicated with in all

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matters connected with the Government of His Highness' territories. In reply, the English Government was respectfully informed that according to the constitution of this country these demands could not be complied with, and our humbling ourselves to the very ground was of no avail. The English Government was inexorable, as we have been always opposed to these measures, and had taken active steps against them; we got a letter in Dhannu last from the English East India Company requesting us to resign our post and to quit Travancore, along with the whole of our family and some of the officials who had joined us, and to reside in British territory, and we were promised in the event of our complying with the request that every mark of respect and honor would be paid to us. The Resident, Colonel Macaulay, thereafter intending to introduce reforms, and practically administer the Government. We were at the same time informed that we should be the cause of war being declared, in case we delayed to agree to the conditions stated in the letter, the contents of which we were required to bring at once to the notice of His Highness the Maha Rajah. We did not hesitate to reply that we should not, even should our refusal cost our life, be guilty of such treason to our sovereign and country, and once for all spurn the proposals made to us. The Resident, Colonel Macaulay, thereupon and without having the slightest consideration or respect for the sovereign of Travancore or giving the least intimation, brought by sea and landed a number of European soldiers to Quilon and shipped back all the European women and children that were there, with all their property, and unjustly commenced war with Travancore. It had never before been nor is it now our intention to break out into war with the English. But now that they have begun the war, if we do not adopt prompt measures in our defence or on gaining the first success, if we do not at once avail ourselves of them to follow up the victory, we would lose all advantages we had gained and the consequences would be that

hardships would befall us such as not a single soul in this country would be able to bear and pass his days. We shall give a few instances of those hardships and miseries.

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It is the nature of the English nation to get possession of countries by treacherous means, and should they obtain ascendancy in Travancore, they will put their own guards in the palaces, Sircar buildings, and the fort gates, destroy the royal seal, do away with honorific palanquins, and other distinguishing marks, suppress the Brahmanical communities and worship in pagodas, make monopolies of salt and every other thing, measure up and assert themselves absolute owners of waste lands, impose exorbitant taxes on paddy lands, cocoanut trees, &c., get low caste people to inflict heavy punishments for slight faults, put up crosses and Christian flags in pagodas, compel intermarriages with Brahman women without reference to caste or creed, and practice all the unjust and unlawful things which characterize Kaliyuga.

Let us therefore exert ourselves to keep off impending calamities such as those we have sketched above, and endeavour so far as lies in our power that no disparagement or discredit may be imputed to us in guarding our homes, the charitable institutions, and the manners and customs of our land. The rest, of course, we must leave to the divine will. These measures which we have enumerated are incumbent upon us to adopt to defend ourselves against the action taken by the English."

KOONDARA, 1st Magaram 984.

By the Dalawah's strongly worded and powerful proclamation, the whole populace of Travancore was incensed and disaffected, and a revolt against the British force stationed at Quilon took place at once. The cantonment was attacked by large bodies of militia, assisted by the Travancore regular troops, stationed about Quilon, but they were repulsed as

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IV. often as they attacked, by the able Commandant Colonel Chalmers. The failure of the attempt to murder Colonel Macaulay had not totally disheartened the Sarvadhiakariakar of Alangaud, as he appears to have entertained hopes of success again. About 2,000 men, consisting of regular infantry and militia and the rabble, were kept up in the vicinity of Cochin, and the town was visited by them, now and then. The Cochin minister, Paliathu Menon, had also collected a force of about 2,000 men and kept them also in the neighbourhood to attack the town. The Judges and other Company's officers closed their offices and many of the inhabitants and merchants left Cochin for Calicut, and the fear of a combined rebellion in Travancore and Cochin against the English East India Company now became general. But the arrival of Lieutenant-Colonel Cuppage on the northern frontier, and of Major Hewitt's detachment at Cochin, with whom the Travancoreans had fought and failed, discouraged the northern Travancore force entirely, and they retreated to the south, thus leaving Cochin safe and secure in the hands of the Company.

At Quilon, the action under Colonel Chalmers was decisive, for on the 18th January, the Dewan's force was completely defeated, during a contest which lasted six hours.

The Madras Government published the following proclamation in Tinnevelly and Malabar which completely quieted the population of those districts :—

“ Proclamation.

“ The Honorable the Governor in Council of Fort St. George having been informed that the Dewan of Travancore has been endeavouring by artful intrigues to excite the inhabitants of Tinnevelly to rise in arms against the British Government, the Governor in Council thinks it proper to caution the inhabitants of Tinnevelly against listening to the delusive insinuations which the Dewan of Travancore has endeavoured to disseminate. The Governor in Council has no doubt

that the inhabitants of that province will be sensible of their own interests and will continue to enjoy in tranquillity the advantages which they possess under the protection of the British Government."

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"Dated in Fort St. George, the 15th day of January 1809."

Published by order of the Honorable the Governor in Council.*

The Government published the following proclamation on the 17th January 1809, for the information of the people of Travancore :—

"Proclamation."

"It is known to the inhabitants of Travancore that during many years the closest alliance has subsisted between the British Government and the Government of the Travancore country; that the British troops have long been employed in defence of Travancore, and that it was by the exertion of the British armies, that Travancore was saved from subjection to the power of Tippoo Sultan.

Under these circumstances, the Honorable the Governor in Council of Fort St. George has heard with extreme surprise, that military preparations of great extent have lately taken place in Travancore for purposes hostile to the interests of the British Government. That the person of the British Resident has been attacked by the Travancore troops and that an assault has been made on the subsidiary Force stationed at Quilon.

The Honorable the Governor in Council has reason to believe that these unprecedented outrages have proceeded from the desperate intrigues of the Dewan of Travancore, who has been also endeavouring by injurious insinuation to excite rebellion in the territories of the Honorable Company; in order that the

* The same to the Collector of Malabar.

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IV. daring plans of the Dewan may be defeated, the Honorable the Governor in Council has directed a large body of troops to move into Travancore, who will, in a short time, put an end to the power of the Dewan, and to restore order and peace in the country of Travancore. The Honorable the Governor in Council thinks it proper at the same time to make known to the inhabitants of Travancore that the approach of the British troops need occasion no alarm in the minds of those inhabitants who conduct themselves peaceably. The British Government has no other view in directing the movements of troops than to rescue the Rajah of Travancore from the influence of the Dewan, to put an end to the power of that dangerous minister and to re-establish the connection of the two Governments on a secure and happy foundation.

The Honorable the Governor in Council calls on the inhabitants of Travancore to co-operate in accomplishing these objects, and such of the inhabitants as shall not oppose the advance of the British troops may be assured of the entire protection of their persons and property; particular orders will also be given to give no disturbance to the Brahmins and religious establishments throughout the Travancore country."

"Dated in Fort St. George, the 17th day of January 1809.

"Published by order of the Honorable the Governor in Council.

(Signed) C. BUCHAN,

Chief Secretary to Govt."

The Travancore minister and his colleagues, as well as the military officials, had not to wait long for their fate, for a British force, under the command of the Honorable Colonel St. Leger, arrived at the southern frontier of Travancore and commenced an attack on the Aramboly lines and forced an entrance into the forts on the 10th February 1809.

Valu Thamby Dalawah who was at the time near the Aramboly garrison to support the operations, found it impossible to resist the British soldiers, and therefore had escaped to Trevandrum hastily. CHAP.
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Being a patriotic minister and a faithful subject of Travancore, and conscious of his own guilt and wrong doings, he resolved honestly to take the blame upon himself and save his sovereign and the country, and requested that all the blame may be clearly and distinctly imputed to him, when the British Government would question His Highness. Valu Thamby then took final leave of his sovereign master, and leaving the palace, he stole away, through the jungles to the north.

Colonel St. Leger and his force marched towards Nagercoil, Udagerry, Padmanabhapuram taking possession of all the arms, ammunitions, &c., &c., from the magazine, as also all the pieces of ordnance found on the batteries and other places. On reaching the last mentioned place (Padmanabhapuram), the party entered the palace and took possession of all the arms stored there.

Colonel the Honorable St. Leger wrote on the 24th February to His Highness, enclosing a letter from Colonel Macauly to the Maha Rajah and calling upon His Highness to deliver up the person of the Dewan within 24 hours after the receipt of his letter.

On the 21st February, the Resident, Colonel Macauly, wrote to His Highness from Quilon, saying that if, after three days from the receipt by His Highness of his note, any opposition or interruption be made or attempted to the movements of the British troops in any quarter of Travancore, such an act of hostility will be considered as furnishing a clear and decided proof that the letter now received, though bearing the signature of His Highness, proceeds from the unworthy and injurious counsel and influence of the treacherous Dewan, with a view to procrastination and further mischief.

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The Honorable Colonel afterwards marched to Trevandrum, and on reaching the neighbourhood, encamped at a place called Pappeneicode, when the Maha Rajah sent a deputation headed by His Highness' favourite Ummany Thamby *alias* Marthanden Eravy, who conveyed to the Colonel His Highness' extreme regret at the occurrence of the insurrection created by Dewan Valu Thamby, and of the adoption of measures for the Dewan's apprehension and delivery. Colonel Macauly arrived in the camp on the 3rd March. Arrangements were made for the apprehension of the minister. A party of Travancore and British officers was despatched in pursuit of the Dalawah, and a reward of (50,000) fifty thousand Rupees was offered for his apprehension.

Ummany Thamby, the head of the deputation, was appointed Dewan on the 18th March 1809 with the full concurrence of the British Government, and he at once sent persons in pursuit of the Dalawah. The runaway Dalawah wandered in the jungles about Vallicote in the Kunnathoor district. He was hotly pursued by the officers even here. From this place he came to Munnady, in the same district, and took refuge in a vacant house belonging to a potty. The servant of Valu Thamby who wandered in the streets there with his master's silver and gold utensils, was seen by the officers and apprehended, and he revealed to them the Thamby's hiding place. He then fled to the Bhagavathi pagoda at Munnady, with his brother Padmanabhen Thamby and determined to put an end to his existence. He asked his brother to stab him. This the brother refused to do at first, when the Dalawah plunged his own dagger in his bosom. But as the self-inflicted wound did not prove mortal, he cried out to his brother 'cut my neck,' which request, the brother complied with, and in one stroke severed the neck from the body. By that time, the pursuers reached the pagoda and forced open the door when they found the lifeless body of Valu Thamby and his brother standing close to it with a drawn



UMMINY THAMBY DEWAN.

sword. The brother was seized and the body removed to Trevandrum, where it was exposed on a gibbet at Kunnammalay for public execration. Lord Minto, the then Governor-General, most strongly condemned this insult offered to the body of such a great man as Valu Thamby.

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The deceased Dalawah's brother Padmanabhen Thamby was hanged on the 10th of April, in the presence of the 12th Regiment at Quilon, on the supposition that he took part in the assassination of Surgeon Hume, and also in the most cruel and inhuman act of the drowning at Pullathurthee of a detachment of the 12th Regiment.

Ummany Thamby Dewan was dreaded by the relatives of the late minister, and his house was razed to the ground and plantain and castor trees planted thereon.

Most of the relatives were transported to the Maldives, but after going a certain distance, stress of weather compelled them to touch at Tuticorin. Some appear to have committed suicide, some died in prison, while the rest were flogged and banished. All these were done by Valu Thamby's successor Ummany Thamby.

Several of the promoters of the insurrection, chief among whom was Vycome Padmanabha Pillay, the murderer of the Europeans at Poracaud, Alleppey, &c., were punished by being publicly hanged at Quilon, Poracaud and Pallathurthee, the spots where the Europeans were massacred.

A short narration of the British army's operations during this insurrection will be found in the following lines from Colonel Welsh's "Military Reminiscences, Vol. 1." This officer was one of the commandants of the force which entered through the Aramboly lines:—

"On the 19th of January, I set out from Madras and reached the Honorable Colonel St. Leger's camp near the Aramboly lines of Travancore on the 5th

CHAP. February, being a distance of 420 miles. The force
IV. was composed as follows :—

His Majesty's 69th Regiment under Lieutenant Colonel W. M'Leod.

Five companies of the 1st Battalion of the 3rd Regiment under Captain Pepper.

2nd Battalion of the 3rd Regiment, 1st Battalion of the 13th Regiment, Major Lang.

Five companies of the 2nd Battalion of the 13th Regiment, Lieutenant Stewart.

6th Regiment of Native Cavalry, Major Nuthall.

Artillery and field pieces, Captain Frank.

And 400 Pioneers, Captain Smithwart."

* * * *

" Having no battering guns with the force, and the nearest dépôt being Trichinopoly, 200 miles off, it appeared desirable to take these lines by a coup-de-main which I proposed to Colonel St. Leger on the 8th of February, and on the 9th having satisfied himself that it was feasible, he consented, though not without much reluctance and considerable reservation. On the morning of the 10th we succeeded, and having escaladed the southern fortified hill, during the night, though defended by 50 pieces of cannon and 10,000 men, the whole lines were in our possession by 8 o'clock a. m. Our loss on the occasion was small beyond calculation, Captain Cunningham of the 69th Regiment killed, one sepoy killed, one surgeon and three privates wounded, and one subadar and six sepoys wounded. Thus we obtained possession of all the enemy's guns, and immense quantities of arms and stores. The army encamped inside the walls that day, and the Pioneers, &c., were employed in destroying the works on both sides the gate which was, however, left entire as a post to secure our communications."

* * * *

" On the 17th of February, the army marched for the interior. The advance commanded by Lieutenant

Colonel M'Leod, consisting of the flanking companies of the 69th Regiment, 350 caffries under Colonel Mornus, and six native flank companies and the Cavalry under Major Nuthall with six guns worked by the Royal Artillery. This party moved off from the right of the line at 3 o'clock A. M., the line following at half past four, and thus leaving a distance of three miles between them. Having got on six miles by day break, they found the enemy strongly posted in a village across a river with high banks, commanding the approach, and several cannon pointed down the high road. Their force was supposed to amount to six hundred men, and they had every advantage in point of position that men could desire. Colonel M'Leod immediately formed his line for the attack, and drove the enemy from their guns after a very heavy fire of both cannon and musketry, which unfortunately did considerable execution from the exposed situation of our troops in advancing. The enemy were completely routed, and dispersed in all directions for some miles ; the country was said to be too difficult for the Cavalry to follow them, which doubtless saved many, if not the whole, from total destruction. Lieutenant Charles Johnstone, however, with a small party of our horse contrived to get in amongst them, and did some execution. Nine capital guns and several dead bodies were the fruits of this victory in addition to which we gained possession of two very fine villages, called Kotaur and Nagercoil. Our loss was Captain Lemo of the caffries, and Lieutenant Swayne of the 13th Native Infantry wounded, and forty-nine rank and file killed and wounded. After this brilliant affair, which did infinite credit to Colonel M'Leod and the brave fellows under his command, the army encamped, four miles beyond the village of Nagercoil.

Although, generally speaking, the enemy had proved far below our expectation, yet there were some exceptions on the 10th. A native officer in the lines, after being fired at by a soldier of the 69th cut him down

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IV. and was killed by another soldier, a few others also stood on both sides and refusing to surrender, were put to death on the spot. These instances deserve to be recorded because they were rare ; for taking them all in all, I never beheld so dastardly a crew, nor did they deserve the name of soldiers although neatly clothed in military uniforms, furnished with capital arms, and in a country every inch of which might have been defended."

* * * *

"On the 19th of February, I had the honor to lead the advance, consisting of the picquets and some flank companies with two six-pounders expecting hard work, though the line was not very distant in our rear. After proceeding three or four miles, we met some peaceable villagers, who informed us that the two forts of Oodagherry and Pulpanavarum in our front, had been abandoned by the enemy, which was the first time we had heard of such fortifications, though we had been expecting to find some field-works to be taken. The news soon spread and ere we had advanced much further we could distinguish white flags flying on trees and sticks, when the whole head quarters gentlemen passed us preceded by some troops to explore the way. Shortly afterwards the road led us, on a sudden within musket-shot of a stone bastion, and curtain, mounting several cannon pointed on the road, and we found this to be part of the fort of Oodagherry, with white flags flying and not a soul within. I was directed to take possession of both forts with my own corps; and Pulpanavarum being the largest, a mile further on, I left two companies in Oodagherry and proceeding thither, disposed of the corps in an open space in the centre, posting Hindu guards in all the pagodas, and the officers taking possession of a large and very well built palace belonging to the Rajah. Here we found many valuable swords, dirks, pistols, guns, spears, rich muslins, kincobs, &c., as well as thousands of jewel-boxes broken open and pillaged by the flying enemy, to give

us some idea of what we had lost. Several of the swords proved to be gold hilted and the blades were of the first water. Of course, all we could lay hands on were secured as prize property, and afterwards sold by public outcry." CHAP.
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"Whilst we thus were advancing from the southward, the subsidiary force at Quilon was by no means idle. Shut up in the heart of a strong country with the inhabitants all in arms against them, they had several severe actions, but invariably came off conquerors. Nevertheless, their situation was daily becoming more critical, until the news of our entering the lines reached the masses by which they were surrounded; when giving up every hopes of further success, they dispersed and fled in all directions, for these lines, ill as they were, calculated to resist an English force, had been hitherto deemed impregnable, and Tippu, in the zenith of his power, had been repulsed from there with great loss."

"Remaining at Pulpalanavarum to collect prize property, we succeeded at last in breaking open the treasury and found all the cash chests open with one solitary rupee on the floor, and two small jewels evidently left on purpose for our annoyance. We had already captured sixteen elephants, and about 50,000 stand of arms, with some hundred guns; but the greatest curiosities were a gun and mortar both of exquisite workmanship, mounted on the parade in Oodagherry, and cast in this place by some European artist. They were made of brass, the gun sixteen feet long and bored as a twenty-two pounder, was so extremely massive that 1,200 men assisted by sixteen elephants could not move it, even for a few yards, when we had an intention of selling it to Captain Foots of His Majesty's ship "Piedmontaise," who offered us two thousand pounds sterling for it. The mortar was equally heavy, and I think had an eighteen-inch bore. They have since been removed, for I lately found only the old gun carriage in that place."

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“ While we were in this neighbourhood, Colonel St. Leger received a letter from the Rama Rajah, by a hurrikara which he answered by the bearer, accompanied by four troopers, intimating that the first proofs of the Rajah's sincerity would be his allowing two of the troopers to pass on to Colonel Chalmers's camp at Quilon, and returning unmolested with an answer. This was actually permitted, and the Rajah received them very graciously at Trevandrum, his capital, and gave them a shawl and sixty rupees each. They came back to our camp with letters from the Rajah, Colonel Macaulay the Resident and Colonel Chalmers, in consequence of which an armistice was proclaimed in our force on the 26th February.”

* * * *

“ Trevandrum the capital of Travancore and residence of the Rajah is a large irregular town without much internal show of riches. There are some good houses in it, and the country around is picturesque and beautiful. The Rajah's palace is situated near the centre, and surrounded by a miserable attempt at fortification, but the interior is roomy and contains not only the palace, but many public buildings belonging to the Prince, such as an armoury, stabling for a large stud, a menagerie, full of wild beasts, temples of worship, barracks, &c. His Highness being somewhat in the back ground, we did not visit him, but after we had been two days there, and his entire innocence of any participation with his rebellious minister and subjects proclaimed, he delivered a man of some consequence into our hands as a hostage for the prime minister. His troops and subjects were quietly disarmed, and parties were detached in pursuit of the rebel Dewan, the Dalawah and general of his cavalry.”

* * * *

“ March the 15th, the new Dewan paid a formal visit to our camp, where he was received with military honors, and a salute of fifteen guns and publicly proclaimed the accredited minister. All the native officers c^t His Highness' late Carnatic brigade being

brought into the camp prisoners, and disgraced by the CHAP.
drummers of the line, who cut their jackets off their IV.
backs, and then turned them out with the "rogues
march." A few days afterwards, it was discovered
that the quiet Rama Rajah had got an arsenal within
his palace walls containing one hundred and forty
pieces of serviceable cannon, fourteen thousand stand
of muskets and bayonets, and ammunition of every
description in the greatest abundance, all of which he
was obliged to deliver up, and our force returned by
corps to Oodagherry to be cantoned there the last
arriving on the 8th of April."

Though the new Dewan Ummany Thamby was blessed with considerable ability and intelligence, and had a general knowledge of the affairs of the country, yet he was too ambitious for power, and wished to acquire a reputation superior to that of his predecessor. With this view, he commenced altogether a new mode of administration, and being a favourite of the Maha Rajah was allowed to proceed on unhindered in accordance with his own views and taste.

Among the various measures adopted by this minister, there were also several useful ones such as the establishment of tannah's (district jails) throughout the country; the restricting the right of the Nanjenaud people, to assemble in large bodies to remonstrate against measures introduced by the Sircar; the establishment of a system of Kavels or watchmen in Nanjenaud, the clearing of tracts of land covered with bushes and weeds and lying between Neyattinkaray and Trevandrum; the building of bazaars and Brahman villages, royal residencies, and store-houses at that place, and thither the Dewan invited a number of weavers, and established several looms and called the place by the name of Balaramapuram, in honour of the reigning Maha Rajah. His object was to open a port at Velingium and make it a great commercial town.

"Balaramapuram three and a half miles W. N. W. of

CHAP. IV. Neyattinkaray, is comparatively of recent date, having been founded by the Dewan Ummany Thamby about the year 1808. It was his intention to have made it a principal commercial town and to cut a navigable canal to communicate with the sea at Velingium, the ground offering every facility for such an undertaking." The building of this town was commenced on a grand scale, artificers of every description and also merchants were invited to settle there, but ere it could be completed according to the original plan, the progress of the works was arrested by the reverse of fortune, that befel Ummany Thamby. Since that period it has remained in its unfinished state, and is chiefly occupied by oilmongers and weavers. It has a tolerable bazaar extending down the central street." *Memoir of Travancore*, p. 13.

However, during a career of above two years, Ummany Thamby Dewan was not able to keep his subordinates in check, in consequence of which abuses of authority and irregularities in every branch of the administration became the order of the day. The subsidy to the Honorable East India Company again fell in arrears ; the salaries of the various establishments became due, and the administration itself was soon in a disorganized state.

This minister was as arrogant as he was ambitious, and taking advantage of the weakness of the Rajah and His Highness' very yielding disposition, took to himself the sole authority and power of Government, and made the Rajah a nonentity! The Rajah was really apprehensive of the minister, who His Highness thought, woudl usurp his kingdom should he happen to displease him.

This minister, was allowed to go on according to his own inclination and pleasure, and hence the affairs of the country became more and more disorganised.

Colonel Macauly remonstrated often against this state of affairs, and pointed out the necessity of his taking active measures to correct the prevailing evils;

but the minister made use of the Maha Rajah's name in bringing forward all sorts of excuses for the non-payment of the kist, and matters went so far, as to induce the Honorable East India Company to give a formal warning to the Rajah of the necessity of enforcing the conditions of the treaty. Still, His Highness does not appear to have rightly understood the import of such a serious intimation, but turned his attention towards the performance of the sexennial ceremony Murajapam, which was closely approaching.

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Colonel Macaulay reported to Government that the Dewan expressed himself alarmed at the spirit of intrigue and hostility which had begun to display itself in the palace at Trevandrum and that His Highness had assumed a line of conduct dangerous to the public tranquillity. The Resident added that the Maha Rajah had become refractory and that he was instigated by the vicious Elia Rajah.

When the Maha Rajah knew of these proceedings of the Dewan, he disowned him, and insisted on his dismissal. But the Resident sided with the Dewan, observing that the Dewan's conduct was praiseworthy and that he was acting up to the treaty. One cause of the difference between the sovereign and his minister was the latter's desire to do away with the expensive Murajapam ceremony as by the saving thus effected he would be able to pay off a part of the subsidy. The minister's view on the subject was strongly supported by the Resident, but it irritated the Maha Rajah the more. When the Resident saw that there would not be the least advantage in resisting His Highness' reasonable wish to observe a time-honored ceremony, he yielded and allowed it to be performed as usual. Colonel Macaulay thought it proper to order a battalion and two field pieces to be cantoned at Trevandrum during the Murajapam, and these were subsequently permanently stationed at the capital at the suggestion of the Dewan and the Resident.

The staunch friend and warm supporter of Dewan

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Valu Thamby in the palace was the young Rajah of Mavalikaray, who being a near relative of the adopted Princesses, took his residence from his boyhood in the palace, all the male members of the Travancore royal family having become extinct with the exception of the Maha Rajah. This young Prince was looked upon by the people as the Elia Rajah. The Maha Rajah too considered him in such a light. The young Rajah styling himself Elia Rajah of Travancore now became the chief intriguer at the palace; the Maha Rajah listened to his counsel and advice, and the Dewan therefore suggested that the Rajah's deportation either to his native place of Mavalikaray or to Alleppey, but the Maha Rajah strongly opposed this step.

Dewan Ummany Thamby's life was threatened, and he complained to the Madras Government.

The Government of India considered that the Dewan was entitled to their protection and gave the Maha Rajah to understand that the Dewan's assassination would be an act of hostility against themselves. The Dewan had been unceasing in his complaint against the young Rajah and also against the Durbar. The Governor-General resolved that the Resident should stay at Trevandrum, to control the hostility of the Durbar, and subsequently, the Resident was instructed to institute an inquiry into the claims of the young Rajah to style himself Elia Rajah or heir apparent of Travancore. During the inquiry, the young Rajah's claim was invalidated by the statements of the Ranee, State officers, &c.

Nevertheless the Maha Rajah insisted upon the young Rajah's continuance in the court.

Colonel Macaulay retired from the office of Resident in 985 M.E. (1810 A.D.), and Colonel Munro was appointed to the vacant post in the same year. This officer did his best to mend matters, and to bring the Dewan to a sense of his duty, but without the desired effect.



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COLONEL MUNRO.

While things were maturing for the direct interference of the Resident, His Highness the Maha Rajah died at 12 o'clock on the night of the 26th Thulam 986 (7th November 1810) in the twelfth year of his reign, and the twenty-ninth year of his age. This event fortunately prevented the adoption of any active and disagreeable measures by the British Government.

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The recollection of this reign and of the despotic administration of Valu Thamby Dalawah are most deplorable. The horrible and wholesale executions, murders, and assassinations of the chief ministerial and military officers of the State, who had been judiciously selected and whose services were highly appreciated during the former reign were among the memorable events of this reign.

A full review of the above facts are recorded by the Honorable Court of Directors of the East India Company in a general letter, dated 29th September 1809, addressed to the Madras Government.

"Extract from a general letter from the Honorable Court of Directors to the Government of Fort St. George, dated 29th September 1809, given by Lieutenant-Colonel Newall, Resident in Travancore, to Comaran Thamby alias Thamby Chembaga Ramen Coomaran, a nephew of the late Rajah Kashava Dass."

"The old Rajah was succeeded by his nephew, a young man, whose character seems ever since to have been marked by imbecility, caprice, and other qualities which show him to be wholly unequal to the task of Government. The old and faithful Dewan of his uncle was supplanted by low and vicious persons, who soon gained an ascendancy over the Rajah and influenced the conduct of affairs.

"In 1799 an insurrection broke out in the district. In 1800 a cabal headed by a person named the Sumprathy, seized the reins of Government, gross abuses prevailed in many of the public departments;

CHAP. " the revenues were decreasing, whilst the bulk of the
IV. " people were in the lowest state of depression ; and
" another insurrection took place on account of
" oppression in some branches of the collections.
" The time of the Rajah is described to have been
" chiefly engrossed by his pleasures, and by super-
" stitious ceremonies among the Brahmans, who, with
" their dependants, were reckoned to be equal in
" number to the working class. The late Dewan, so
" much respected by the people, was not suffered to
" live even in retirement. There is very strong reason
" to believe that he was taken off by poison, and the
" British Resident thought it his duty publicly to
" accuse Sumprathy of this foul murder, but after a
" short arrest and an appearance of inquiry, in which
" more solicitude was shown to avoid than to effect
" discovery he was restored to his liberty and influence
" at the Durbar. This man is stated to have charged
" the late Dewan with ruining the interest of Travancore
" by connexion with Europeans, particularly the
" English, and from all the details contained in the
" ample correspondence carried on by the British
" Resident at that time, it is strongly to be inferred
" that neither the Rajah nor those employed in the
" transaction of his affairs, regarded British connexion
" with the ancient cordiality.

" In 1801, the Rajah, after repeated representations
" from the Resident of the disordered state of the
" country and the necessity of rescuing the manage-
" ment of affairs from those whom he had permitted
" to possess themselves of it, appointed a new Dewan
" named Valu Thamby. This person had been at the
" head of the insurrection of 1799 ; but being reputed
" a man of ability and firmness, the Resident, in the
" great want of persons of that description, approved
" of his appointment, and had reason to expect that
" he would be friendly to the connexion with the
" British Government. His subsequent conduct how-
" ever did not justify this expectation. The Resident,
" after some absence from his station, on returning to

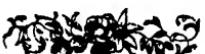
" it in December 1801, found that all the relations of
 " the old and respectable Dewan, who himself had
 " suffered a violent death, had also been murdered, and
 " that Sumprathy, the former favourite, had been
 " disgraced and imprisoned by means of the new
 " Dewan Valu Thamby.

" But those hopes were of short duration ; by the
 " month of November the payment of arrears amounted
 " only to Rupees 60,000 and the balance due was eight
 " lacs. Instead of a further liquidation of debt, that
 " month produces only succession of informations from
 " the Resident, evincing with increasing clearness the
 " certainty of what the officer at first calls " something
 " like a systematic plan of contumacious resistance on
 " the part of the Dewan," which he says rendered it
 " necessary to apprise the Rajah, that with a view to
 " the proper regulation of the affairs of Travancore,
 " another person should be chosen for the office of
 " Dewan in the room of Valu Thamby. This is the
 " man who first comes into notice as the leader of an
 " insurrection in 1799, who, with the assistance of the
 " British influence was advanced to be prime minister
 " in 1801, whose early administration is clouded with
 " suspicion arising from the atrocious murder of the
 " family of the deceased respectable Dewan ; who, in
 " 1805, vowed unalterable attachment to British inter-
 " ests, and only two months before professed sincere
 " contrition for his failure in this respect. He now
 " begins to appear as the sole ruler of the Travancore
 " State. The Rajah, though his disposition was deemed
 " to be favourable, to the British Government, is stated
 " to have been incapable of following the course of his
 " own wishes ; he henceforth ceases to be seen in
 " public transactions, and the Dewan exercises in his
 " own person all the powers of Government. We
 " hear of a faction formed under his protection, of an
 " augmentation of Travancore sepoys, the manufac-
 " tures of bows and arrows, his training the inhab-
 " itants to arms, his success in exciting a ferment,
 " his sending to the Isle of France for 500 artillery men,

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 " and expectation of assistance from thence, his rooted
 " purpose of determined hostility, his being capable of
 " instigating his partisans to an attack, and the expe-
 " diency of placing him as the prime mover and
 " instigator of hostility under arrest. Early in Decem-
 " ber you were told by the Resident that the Dewan
 " still continued with unremitting activity his plans
 " of hostile preparations and that in conjunction with
 " the Rajah of Cochin's minister, a person who appears
 " to have been a suitable confederate to him, and
 " made a conspicuous figure in the subsequent trans-
 " actions, he was endeavouring to force that Prince
 " into measures of hostility against the British Gov-
 " ernment, urging him to unite with other chieftains
 " friendly to Travancore for the expulsion of the
 " English, requiring him with that view to train par-
 " ticular classes of his subjects in the same manner as
 " had been ordered in Travancore. You were at the
 " same time informed by the officer commanding in
 " Malabar that a report prevailed there of an intended
 " attack on the British subsidiary force, and that an
 " army of 22,000 Travancoreans was assembled at no
 " great distance from it."

The financial condition of Travancore was very satisfactory when this Maha Rajah assumed the sovereignty, and therefore His Highness did not experience much difficulty in having the coronation ceremonies performed. Both the ceremonies called Thulapurusha danum and Padmagarbha danum were performed in due course, and the Maha Rajah was crowned, and became Kulasekhara Perumal.

During a reign of twelve years and eight months it does not appear that this Maha Rajah passed any enactments, either for the improvement of the administration, or for the amelioration of the condition of the inhabitants, as was done by His Highness' predecessor.





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HER HIGHNESS LEKSHMI BHYE.



CHAPTER V.

SREE PADMANABHA SAVINEE VANJI DHARMA WARDHINEE RAJAH
RAJAISWARI RANEE GOUREE LEKSHMI BHYE.

HE direct and legitimate heir to the vacant musnud was this young Ranees of twenty years of age. Her right was disputed by a collateral uncle, who brought forward his claims, which, on an impartial and just investigation by Colonel Munro, were set aside as invalid, and the young Princess was at once crowned under the auspices of the Madras Government and the Honorable Court of Directors of the East India Company.

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Colonel Munro, observing symptoms of disaffection in the pretended claimant and his partisans, sent the Rajah as a State-prisoner first to Tellicherry and afterwards to Chingleput, where he remained till the latter part of his days.

Her Highness Lekshmi Bhye commenced her reign in a manner quite different from that of her predecessor, and which could scarcely have been expected from a person of her age and sex.

Though young, Her Highness was possessed of a cultivated mind, was gifted with a sound judgment, had sagacity to discern what was good for her kingdom, and to adopt such measures as were calculated for its improvement.

She possessed an additional advantage in being wedded to one Rajah Rajah Vurmah, Koil Thampuran of Chunganacherry (the grand-uncle of the present Valia Koil Thainpuran), who was an accomplished Sanscrit scholar and well versed in the institutes of

CHAP. Manu, as well as in all the Puranas. Thampuran who
V. was only one year older than his royal consort, was the best counsellor of Her Highness in all matters, both domestic as well as public.

Her Highness' good qualities are too numerous to be described here, and the writer thinks that he would not be able to do justice in the narration, were he to undertake such a task ; for, his inquiries lead him to the conclusion that a full volume might be written regarding the life and career of this accomplished Ranee, though her reign lasted only for a short period.

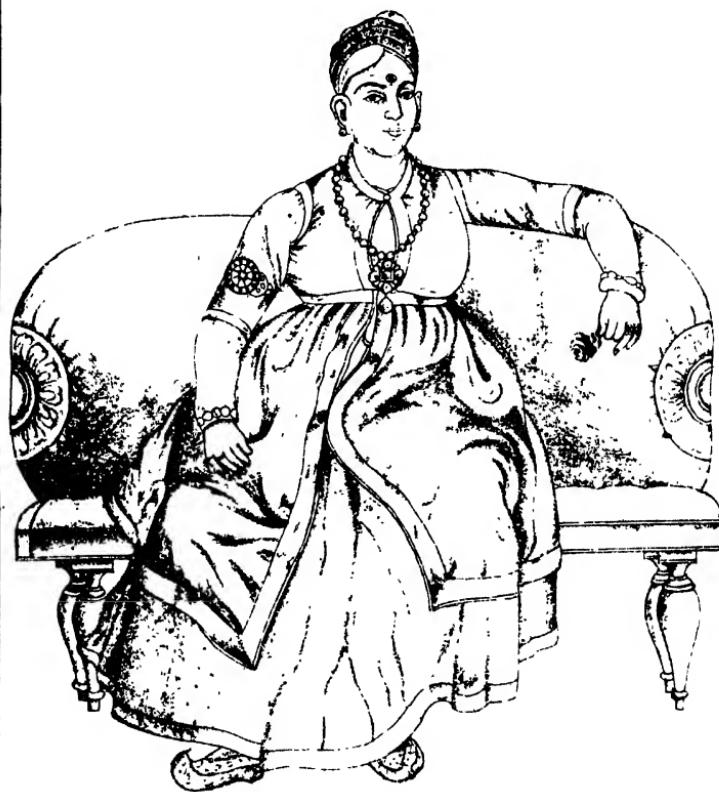
The principal quality in Her Highness was her firmness of mind and capability of resisting all idle counsellors and keeping herself free from flatterers and sycophants.

Her Highness, young as she was, had observed the weak points of her deceased uncle's character, the self-interested proceedings of Dewan Ummany Thamby, the disorganized state of the Government resulting from the mismanagement of affairs, and therefore Her Highness was most anxious to correct these evils, by which alone she knew the credit of her Government could be regained and the welfare of her subjects promoted. With this view, Her Highness resolved to entrust the Government of her kingdom into the hands of Colonel Munro, the Resident of Travancore.

The first step Her Highness took after her installation, was to dispense with the services of Dewan Ummany Thamby. Her Highness, after dismissing the Dewan, requested Colonel Munro to assume charge of the administration, and conduct the duties of the Dewan, along with those of Resident.

Colonel Munro, equally desirous for the restoration of order in, and the improvement of the country, and anxious to assist such a good Ranee in her praiseworthy desire, accepted the offer without any hesitation.

Thus, this wise Princess managed to place her king-



RAJAH-RAJAH YURMAH KOIL THUMPURAN.

dom which was verging on ruin and was nearly falling into the hands of the Honorable East India Company, in a position of stability, and she thus relieved herself, not only from the cumbersome burden of Government, but also from a world of personal inconvenience.

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Colonel Munro in his joint office of Resident and Dewan had no ordinary task before him, for he had to surmount difficulties which we can scarcely imagine now, considering the present state of the country.

The first object of Colonel Munro in accepting the office of the premier was, to establish order and regularity in the administration, and to reorganize the confused state of affairs which the mismanagement of the late Dewan Ummany Thamby had caused. It was the want of proper control over the subordinates, which had upset and destroyed the regular system of administration introduced by the most distinguished and renowned sovereigns of former times, and subsequently maintained, though somewhat cruelly and arbitrarily, by the able Dalawah Valu Thamby.

The first step Colonel Munro adopted, like Valu Thamby Dalawah, was to correct abuses and weed out corruption from the service, and to this end he worked most successfully. It would be too numerous to detail here the particulars of all the measures taken by him to carry out his project of reformation.

The foremost measure adopted by the Resident was to introduce corporal punishment in every instance of corruption and other immoral conduct on the part of Sircar servants.

Every case of irregularity the Colonel investigated before him, and after ascertaining the facts *pro and con* passed his decision.

A set of drummers from the Resident's escort was always ready before Colonel Munro for the correct execution of the award of corporal punishment, and the cat-o'-nine tails was largely employed for the infliction of such punishments.

CHAP. Colonel Munro, moved on circuit from Thovalay to
V. Paravoor accompanied by his own establishment and had order, regularity, discipline, and strict obedience ensured in the course of a year.

During this praiseworthy and memorable circuit of Colonel Munro, many a Sircar servant had lessons in morality imprinted on his back with the cat-o'-nine tails.

Colonel Munro's award of punishment was something like that of a school master; for none of the chastised servants was dismissed from the service. Soon after the administration of punishment, the incumbents were invariably ordered to continue in their respective posts and discharge their duties satisfactorily. Many of Colonel Munro's scholars had indeed their backs scored; but rose subsequently to very conspicuous and prominent positions in the service.

During the interval, the ex-Dewan Ummany Thamby incurred lasting disgrace by plotting certain measures against the life of the Colonel. The treachery having been discovered, Ummany Thamby was banished the country and was taken to Chingleput and detained there as a State-prisoner.

After re-modelling the service, Colonel Munro directed his attention to the introduction of a thorough reform in the general administration, and in consultation with the able and experienced people of the country, both conservatives and liberals, and in accordance with the rules established under the old sovereigns, new rules were framed for the guidance of revenue, criminal and civil officers, founded partly on the Dharma Sastram, (Institutes of Manu) and partly on the regulations then in force under the Honorable East India Company's Government.

These rules were called in the whole style Satta Wariolas, and they were promulgated under the sanction of Her Highness under date the 30th Chingom 987 M.E. (1812 A.D.)

Regular Courts of Appeal and zillah were constituted and established and the jurisdiction and power of judges were determined. CHAP.
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A Huzzoor Court for the trial and punishment of all the Sircar servants was also established. The names of the district officials were changed and the head of every district was styled a Thasildar, instead of a kariakar, and he was made exclusively a revenue officer, the criminal functions being entrusted to the hands of the several tannah Naiks, who were bound to take up every police case and hand it over to the Zillah Courts.

The next measure was to organize the financial affairs of the kingdom, the expenditure of the State having been found to exceed considerably the receipts of the revenue, and Colonel Munro adopted efficient methods to maintain an equilibrium between the two.

All the establishments were modified and re-organised, a distinct and clear scale of pension for the chiefs and other dependants of the State was introduced, and a new scale of expenditure for the palace establishment was framed, and various other measures adopted.

On Colonel Munro's assuming charge of the administration, the State debt amounted to nearly one whole year's revenue of the State of Travancore, of which, the most part was due to the Honorable East India Company as arrears of subsidy, and the rest to merchants of Tinnevelly, Kottar, Cochin, Bombay and other places, and Colonel Munro appears to have been able to clear off this heavy burden of the State during the time of his administration. In every measure adopted, he received cordial co-operation from Her Highness the Ranee, the particulars of which will be shown in due course.

Valu Thamby, observing the various Devaswams in Travancore, the large estate each possessed, and the remarkable influence of the Devaswams over the people,

CHAP. contemplated the assumption of the whole and the
V. annexation of the estates to the Sircar, hoping by these means to neutralize, if not totally destroy the influence of the Devaswams over the people, and thus check any future commotions that might arise; but before this plan could be matured, the Dalawah had the misfortune to be in trouble, and ultimately to lose his life.

On Colonel Munro being informed of this idea of the Dalawah, he thought it important enough to be worthy of adoption, and consultation with the principal officers of the State, and he framed rules in furtherance of the measure, so that thereby the future management of Devaswam affairs was to a very great extent vested in the Sircar, and with the sanction of Her Highness the Ranee, rules were drawn up. This measure was also the means of causing a permanent additional revenue to the State, for, after meeting the expenses of the various Devaswams, it left a good margin in favor of the Sircar.

A couple of intelligent Mahratta Brahmans accompanied Colonel Munro on his first coming to Travancore, of whom one was a talented Mahratta scholar, with a tolerable knowledge of the English language. His name was Reddy Row *alias* Vencatta Row. He had been very useful to Colonel Munro in the carrying out of his views and measures. Reddy Row being a clever Mahratta accountant, he was ordered by Colonel Munro to organize a regular Mahratta account department in Travancore, and to have also all the accounts translated and arranged.

After Reddy Row had finished the above work, he was appointed to superintend certain departments in the Huzzoor cutcherry, which duty having been satisfactorily discharged, he received further promotion and eagerly hoped to be advanced still higher in the service.

Colonel Munro selected mostly natives, both Numbery Brahmans, Sudras and Syrian Christians, who

were well educated in their own language and also in Sanscrit, and who were possessed of a thorough knowledge of the Institutes of Manu, for the office of judges, &c., and he used to consult with them invariably in all important affairs. Of these, one Daven Padmanabhen of Trevandrum, and one Ramen Menon, a native of Cochin Sircar territories, were particularly attached to him and they were both appointed judges.

During Colonel Munro's administration, he effected the abolishment of several items of oppressive imposts such as poll-tax, tax on nets, and other *moothraphas*, and also conceded a remission of all the arrears of fines, taxes, and other demands of the Sircar which accumulated to a considerable amount during former years.

Manufacture of country-salt was carried on in an improved system and foreign salt was also purchased. Salt-stores and bankshalls were constructed on better principles, and the collection of customs duty regulated by the establishment of additional chowkeys or custom-houses throughout the country.

The residencies at Quilon and Trevandrum were constructed during Colonel Munro's administration.

After the disturbance in 985 M.E. (1810 A.D.), under Valu Thamby Dalawah, the Travancore army had become almost extinct, and Colonel Munro organized two Nair battalions and one company of cavalry as body guard and escort to royalty, and European officers were appointed to the command of them.

While the Travancore State was brought again to a flourishing condition by this most able and distinguished administrator, the happiness of the people and the prosperity of the kingdom were crowned by the birth of a Prince in 988 M.E. (1813 A.D.). This was the first son of Her Highness the Ranee Lekshmi Bhye, the reigning Princess.

In the same year, Mr. Blacker, brother-in-law of Colonel Munro, arrived having been appointed Assist-

CHAP. ant Resident, and was nominated by the Colonel to
V. look after the financial affairs of the Cochin State.

In accordance with usage and Hindu law, the little Prince was proclaimed Maha Rajah of Travancore, and Her Highness, the Queen-mother, continued to hold the sceptre as regent on behalf of the infant Maha Rajah.

Her Highness' Government, assisted by Colonel Munro's able administration, continued to distinguish itself most admirably both to the highest satisfaction of the people as well as of the Government of the Honorable East India Company.

Colonel Munro selected a successor to himself in the person of the above-mentioned Daven Padmanabhen, the then judge of the Huzzoor court, and Her Highness the Ranee appointed him as Dewan in 989 M.E. (1814 A.D.), and thus afforded relief to Colonel Munro who had acted as Dewan for a period of about four years.

This Dewan conducted the administration entirely under the sole advice of Colonel Munro, and distinguished himself in the honest discharge of his duties, but unfortunately, he died of small-pox, five months after his appointment.

Her Highness gave birth to another Prince in the year 990 M.E. (1815 A.D.), but two months after this event, Travancore had the misfortune to be deprived of the rule of such an accomplished Princess, by Her Highness' premature death after a few days illness.

The people were plunged in great sorrow at the sudden and unexpected death of the Ranee. They felt her loss the more keenly as Her Highness' reign had been for so short a period as four years, and as Her Highness was as, if not more popular than her grand-uncle, Rama Rajah, who died in 973 M.E. (1798 A.D.)

In the course of four years this Princess had done much more good to the people than several of Her

Highness' predecessors had achieved during a much longer period, not in the quantity, but in the quality, of Her Highness' work. Almost in each of the four years during her reign, Her Highness had passed some very necessary enactments for the welfare of the country and of its people, whose interest Her Highness had paid better attention to than her own. Various items of objectionable income, introduced and maintained during former reigns, had been abolished and the revenue willingly sacrificed, under the valuable advice of Colonel Munro as has been stated above.

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All the enactments were promulgated in the form of royal proclamations, and Her Highness also authorized Colonel Munro to issue such acts under his own hand and seal. Numerous enactments of the kind are still in force for the conduct of revenue affairs, for the regulation of which there are scarcely any other or better provisions. Many of these rules had emanated doubtless from Colonel Munro himself, but the ready sanction of Her Highness to all proposals of the Colonel must reflect great credit on the wisdom of the Princess. There were, however, several important measures which originated from Her Highness directly, and were highly applauded by Colonel Munro.

Of the numerous enactments passed during this reign that for the abolition of the slave trade was one of the most important. This was promulgated by a royal proclamation under date the 21st Vrischigom 987 M.E. (5th December 1812 A.D.) As was the case in Britain, traffic in human flesh and blood, was carried on in Travancore as well as throughout the whole of India, and though the practise had been a good deal restricted during the time of many of the wise sovereigns of Travancore, this objectionable trade had never been entirely prohibited by any royal edict till the period of this happy reign, and the consequence was that during the time of dearth or famine, people of all castes, except the Brahmans, were publicly sold to those who wanted them. Scarcely a

CHAP. year after the installation of this Princess, and even before Colonel Munro had assumed charge of the administration, Her Highness had the benevolence and humanity to introduce this desirable prohibition.

V.
The Satta Wariola which established the courts for the first time in Travancore and to which we have already made reference, was an Act containing 34 sections. It ran as follows :—

“ Whereas the vital part of Government in all countries is the administration of justice which has not been properly regulated in Travancore, owing to the difficulty which the public experiences in approaching the presence of the Maha Rajah and the Resident for obtaining redress for their grievances, the various kariakars already overburdened with business, being unable to dispose of the several matters that go before them ; and whereas it has been found expedient to provide a method by which justice could be administered according to the Dharma Sastra and the customs of the country, the following enactment is introduced with the sanction of Her Highness the Maha Ranee :

1. One superior court and five courts subordinate thereto shall be established in Travancore for the enquiry and adjudication of all suits appertaining to land and monetary transactions as also for the trial of criminal cases.

2. The superior court shall consist of the Dewan and three judges, two of whom shall be Brahmans and one a Nair.

3. Each of the lower courts shall contain three judges, two of them being Brahmans and the third a Nair.

4. There shall be under each court one Darogah and a certain number of tannahs and peons.

5. The establishment of the lower court shall be within the limits of each of the courts ; viz. : a court

shall be established at Padmanabhapuram having jurisdiction over Thovalay and Agusteeswaram; a second, at Trevandrum to try the cases of Trevandrum north and south; a third, at Mavalikaray to try the cases of Mavalikaray and Ambalapulay; a fourth, at Vycome to try the cases at Yetmanoor and Cottayam; and a fifth, at Alwaye to try the cases of Alangaud division.

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6. All disputes and all matters, except those hereafter to be provided for, shall be determined according to the Dharma Sastra and customs of the land.

7. According to Hindu law, a heinous offence becomes capital in the following instances only; (a), raising rebellion and attempting to create riot; (b), compassing the death of the sovereign and attempting to do the same; (c), committing wilful dacoity.

8. The following punishments are provided for murder, assault, criminal trespass, &c., &c., death, banishment from the country, forfeiture of property, imprisonment of two descriptions, simple and rigorous, whipping and fine.

9. In offences relating to caste, religion, property, monetary transactions, the courts can award punishments in accordance with the Dharma Sastra and the customs of the country, death and mutilation excepted.

10. Though the punishments prescribed in Section 8 for murder and other offences are according to the Dharma Sastra and the customs of the land, yet the courts are competent to commute these punishments.

11. All trials by ordeals shall be abolished. All sentences shall be passed according to documentary evidence.

12. Syrian, Mahomedan, Parsee and other residents of Travancore shall be liable to punishment for all crimes, except murder, according to Hindu law.

13. If the plaintiff and defendant in a suit relating to property or monetary transctions be one and the

CHAP. same caste, the case shall be decided according to the established custom of their caste. But if they be of different castes, the case will have to be decided according to the established custom of the defendant's caste and creed.

14. People under the jurisdiction of a court shall not file suits of any description whether civil or criminal in another court.

15. Government servants as well as the inhabitants of a place are authorised to apprehend and deliver over to the local tannah, all offenders who commit highway robbery and murder, assault, causing grievous hurt, simple robbery, house-breaking and theft, cheating, smuggling trade, disobedience to lawful authority and public nuisance.

16. The apprehension of any such offenders shall be at once reported to the Dewan by the tannah people. If the Dewan finds it necessary to commit the offenders to the criminal court, he shall order the tannah people to take the culprits to the court to whose jurisdiction the culprit belongs, with the records.

17. As soon as the Darogah takes charge of the offenders he shall report the matter to the court, and communicate to the court the name or names of the offender or offenders and the nature of the crime committed. After holding a preliminary investigation the court shall fix a day for the final hearing of the case and shall issue summons to the witnesses.

18. The investigation of the court shall be conducted publicly and not privately. In all cases the witnesses shall be examined on oath in the presence of the defendants.

19. All cases of murder, robbery, &c., shall be investigated and decision passed from the court, so also all civil cases shall be settled. In the latter, if either the defendant or the plaintiff require the case to be settled by a punchayat, the court shall take their application on oath, and then order the case to be

settled by the punchayat, in which one of the court servants shall form a member.

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20. In all criminal as well as civil cases the following particulars shall be recorded, viz.: 1st, the nature of the crime and the evidence, the names of the witnesses, the various documents produced, &c.; 2nd, the documents, &c., of the defendants; 3rd, the decision of the court or punchayat as the case may be.

21. Except the sentence for murder and other heinous crimes and forfeiture of all property, all punishments shall be executed at once under the order of the sub-courts. The copies of the judgments of all cases shall be given to the parties. Copies of judgment shall also be sent to the kariakar (tabhsildar) and tannah Naik of the respective districts to which the parties belong, who shall as soon as they get the copies put the sentence into execution in all minor cases. Copies of sentence on murder and other grave crimes shall be given to the Darogah, who will put the judgment into execution immediately under the orders of the court, provided the punishment be a light one. In cases where the sentences are for confiscation, banishment or such others, the Darogah shall act according to the orders of the Dewan, to whom he will at once communicate the court's decision.

22. If anybody lodges a complaint before a civil court, notice shall be sent to the defendant to appear before the court on a fixed day. If the defendant fails to appear on that day, a notice shall be published to the effect that if the defendant does not appear before the court within ten days of the issue of the notice, the case shall be decided ex parte. In the event of defendant's non-appearance again, the court shall examine the plaintiff and his witnesses and decide the case ex parte.

23. It is the duty of the tannah people to serve the notice on the witnesses in all cases, when such are sent from the court.

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24. The tannah people shall receive security from a witness, if they have reason to think that the witness will abscond from the place.

25. If a person who lives under the jurisdiction of another court is cited as a witness, the court under whose jurisdiction he lives, shall be written to, and that court shall order the tannah people of that locality to cause the attendance of the witness.

26. The cases that come before a court shall be properly filed in a book, and the cases taken and decided according to the number in which they are filed.

27. When a complaint is brought before a court against a Government servant for having abused authority or exceeded his powers, the court shall take the plaintiff's deposition as well as those of the witnesses on oath, and without questioning the defendant, send the records to the high court who shall forward the records to the Dewan, and the court will act according to the orders of that authority.

28. In cases of murder, the sub-courts shall send their sentence and the records to the high court, who, after examining the case, will send it to the Maha Rajah if they find the guilt established against the defendant, and the Maha Rajah will sentence the prisoner, which sentence shall be communicated to the lower court, and the Darogah shall execute the sentence under the orders of the lower court.

29. In civil cases should the defendant or plaintiff express a wish to appeal against the decision of the lower court, he shall state the fact to the lower court within fifteen days after the passing of the judgment. The lower court shall then stop executing their sentence, and send all records connected with the case to the high court.

30. After reading the records sent them by the lower court, the high court shall go into the case themselves and adjudge the matter according to its merits.

When a lower court forwards the records of any

case of their own or that of a punchayat, and should the high court find any illegal proceeding on the part of the lower court, they shall at once communicate the same to the lower court and order the case to be re-investigated and pass their decision.

32. On appeal being made before the high court against the decision of the lower court, the court shall send notice to the lower court as to the day of hearing, when the witnesses will be ordered by the lower court to present themselves before the high court.

33. Should the high court agree with the decision of the lower court, and find that the appeal was vexatious, they shall punish the appellant and shall also order the defendant's costs to be paid.

34. All cases criminal and civil, as has been already said, will be first tried in the lower courts. But if a party requests the Dewan, he shall order the case to be sent from the lower court to the high court which will investigate and pass decision on the same."

The uncommon humanity of Her Highness Lekshmi Ranee has been shown by many acts. The one establishing ample rewards for the destruction of tigers, cheetahs, and elephants, &c., for the protection of the inhabitants of the hilly districts, who were molested and often killed, was one instance. In the former reigns, there had been the militia and the regular armies equipped with fire arms throughout Travancore, to whom the duty of destroying wild animals had been assigned, but since the abolition of the militia and the disbanding of the Travancore army, the inhabitants of that part of Travancore infested with wild beasts, had been exposed to the attacks of tigers, elephants and other wild animals.

The nature of the correspondence which passed between this Ranee and Colonel Munro, and the tenor of Her Highness' speech on the day of her installation prove sufficiently Her Highness sagacity and her great faith in the justice and support of the Honorable East India Company. Specimens of the former shall

CHAP. V. be annexed. The following is an abstract of the speech delivered by Her Highness :

After passing the ceremonial part of the Durbar, Her Highness Lekshmi Ranee descended suddenly from Her Guddee and addressing Colonel Munro, said in a very clear and unagitated voice, in Malayalam, "Eithrayum Bahumanappetta Sahabay." *i. e.,* Most Respected Sir, I had not expected even in my dreams that I would be called upon ever in my life to assume a musnud which had been most worthily and deservedly occupied by my ancestors from time immemorial, and latterly supported and protected under the auspices of the Honorable East India Company. My uncle, who has been just removed from this world to a better one by Divine will, was only twenty-nine years of age, and if such had not been the will of Sree Padmanabha Swamy (alluding to the household god) my uncle could have held the sceptre for a greater length of time like my grand-uncle, who departed to heaven in the year 973, but since it has been the will and command of my household deity, Sree Padmanabha Swamy, I am ready to obey, but being a young female, quite unprepared and unqualified for such a high and responsible position, I cannot do better than to place myself under the guidance and support of the Honorable East India Company, whose bosom had been an asylum for the protection of an infant like Travancore, since the time Sree Padmanabha Swamy had effected an alliance with such a respectable company of the European nation. To you, Colonel, I entrust everything connected with my country, and from this day I look upon you as my own elder brother and so I need say no more."

The assembly was struck with admiration at the intelligent and graceful delivery of the speech, and Colonel Munro was fully satisfied that the Princess had more talent and intelligence than he had expected, and that he should be able to carry on his functions successfully in Travancore.

*Translation of a letter addressed to Colonel J. Munro, CHAP.
the Resident of Travancore, by Her Highness the V.
Ranee Lekshmi Bhye, under date the 19th Edavom
986 (1811 A.D.)*

“ MY DEAR AND BROTHERLY COLONEL SAHIB,

“ Since the Colonel is aware of the honor and position of my country and its customs and manners, it would be unnecessary for me either to write at length or to speak at large concerning them. All the systems established by my ancestors for the maintenance of the various charitable institutions, as well as for the protection and advancement of the welfare of my subjects, I request the Colonel will see, conducted according to *mamool* and without the least difference.

“ The subject of paying the Brahmans, who had been deputed for *Sethu Snamum* (pilgrimage to Rama-swaram), and who have been complaining of non-payment, had already been brought to your notice by me requesting early disbursement of the same. Maha Sing Killadar had also been instructed to settle the matter at once.

“ Speedy and correct despatch of business will, I think, be the more facilitated by our mutual correspondence on matters concerning the administration, and I have no doubt the Colonel will concur with me this opinion of mine.

“ As I am a female, and have entrusted my brotherly Colonel with all my affairs, I have full confidence that you will have me and my country, with my subjects and all the charities, conducted in accordance with *mamool* (usage).”

(Signed) LEKSHMI BHYE.

TREVANDERUM, }
19th Edavom, 986. }

**CHAP.
V.** *Translation of the abstract of a speech delivered by Her Highness Lekshmi Ranee, the 25th Chingom 989 (1814 A.D.), when Her Highness' first born child Prince Rama Vurma, was introduced at a Durbar.*

"As the Honorable East India Company has been acting with justice, it pleased Sree Padmanabha Swamy to accomplish everything agreeably to their desire.

"At the instance or my household deity Sree Padmanabha Swamy, I have placed this child of mine on the bosom of the Company, and the responsibility for the future support and respectable treatment of this royal scion shall now rest with the Honorable Company. What more need I say."

This letter and the speech, as well as the one above alluded to as having been delivered on the occasion of Her Highness' accession to the musnud, unquestionably prove the Ranee's sterling worth. Such rare instances of sagacity and intelligence in females in power deserve prominent notice.

Travancore was widely known from the earliest times as a stronghold of Hinduism, where superstition prevailed to the highest extremity. Every European nation was considered here as low-caste, and reckoned as mlacha or hoonah (outcastes) and the high caste Hindus, such as Brahmans and Kshatrias, would not approach a European too closely, for fear of being contaminated.

The sovereigns of Travancore used to receive visits from Europeans in the early part of the 18th century, in a building at the beach south-west of the town of Trevandrum, known by the name Poontoray, and a few years subsequently, a bungalow was constructed for the reception of the Resident outside the Trevandrum fort, in a garden called Sinkaratope, where till the installation of this remarkable Princess, Durbars had been held on all occasions. The prescribed rules of

the Brahmans in those days were that the Maha Rajah should undergo certain ablutions, ceremonies, and change his sacred thread (poonunool) after the Durbar, as the Rajah would be contaminated by touching the Resident. The female members of the royal family, like all the Hindu females of power and note, were not in the habit of appearing in public, and used to observe the character of Ghosha women. But this wise young Princess, Lekshmi Ranee, had the boldness and determination to break through all the superstitions and brahmanical opposition and to adopt a new course for her own career.

On the demise of her uncle, though there was a collateral brother of her's in the person of a grown up Rajah of the Mavalikaray family, then residing at Trevandrum with aspirations for the vacant musnud, Her Highness wrote to Colonel Munro for an interview and received the Resident in an open Durbar in Her own palace, and informed him that however reluctant she had been to hold the sceptre of Travancore, Her Highness would not permit the line of sovereignty to be passed over to another house, as long as there was in existence a living member in the legitimate house.

This noble behaviour of the Princess ensured Colonel Munro's hearty espousal of the cause of the Ranee, and promoted Her Highness' installation to the **vacant** musnud.

Her Highness Lekshmi Bhye was really the pioneer to clear off the wild superstition which prevailed in the royal house as has been mentioned above with regard to association with Europeans, and to open the way for freer intercourse, for, whereas the very approach of a European at a certain distance was considered as defiling and polluting even in the beginning of the present century, there are now European gentlemen moving freely among the high caste people and in the interior of the royal houses, and a Europea . Doctor attends and feels the pulse of a female patient of the

CHAP. royal family. But how was such a happy and desirable change effected ?

It must be asserted that time has done it. Indeed, that time has to a certain extent influenced this change, may be a fact, but that in Travancore it was effected through the agency of the most accomplished and highly remarkable Ranee Lekshmi Bhye is a fact, which those conversant with the country firmly believe.

When Her Highness the Ranee fell ill, and her case was considered hopeless, she called her husband, the worthy Rajah Rajah Vurmah Koil Thampuran, and committed to his care her only juvenile sister Parwathi Ranee, and her three children (one little Princess and two infant Princes) requesting him, to render his most valuable assistance to her sister, when she should be placed on the musnud as Regent, during the minority of Her Highness' son, and two days afterwards, Her Highness expired to the great grief of the whole family as well as the misfortune of the kingdom of Travancore.





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HER HIGHNESS COURREE PARWATHI BHYE.



CHAPTER VI.

SREE PADMANABHA SAVINEE VANJI DHARMA WARDHINEE RAJAH
RAJAISWARI RANEE GOUREE PARWATHI BHYE.

HE royal family, at the demise of Her Highness Lekshmi Ranee, consisted but of four members, her sister, daughter and two sons.

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This small group was unfortunately a juvenile one, for, the eldest member, Gouree Parwathi Bhye, was only thirteen, and Rugmini Bhye, seven years of age, while the two Princes, Rama Vurmah and Marthanda Vurmah were respectively eighteen and three months old. They were therefore at that time, under the care and guardianship of Rajah Rajah Vurmah the Valia Koil Thampuran, the late Ranee's husband.

The senior member of the family, Gouree Parwathi Ranee was selected in the Malabar year 990 (1815 A.D.) to act as regent during the minority of Prince Rama Vurmah.

The young Princess, though only thirteen years of age, was imbued with a deep sense of her duty, like Her Highness' deceased sister, and had received a good education in Sanscrit and Malayalam. She was of a mild, kind, and very affable disposition, and being placed under her able brother-in-law, the Valia Koil Thampuran, Her Highness was also advised, like her sister, to follow implicitly the judicious counsels of Colonel Munro, the Resident.

The Resident, observing the good qualities and highly tractable disposition of the young Princess, was delighted ; and though he was relieved from the oner-

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VI. ous duties of the Travancore prime ministership, he did not relax his exertions for the improvement of the administration. But, as he had to deal with a Princess of very tender age, Colonel Munro's responsibility became two-fold.

Since the premature death of the Dewan, Daven Padmanabhen, no successor was appointed, and the affairs of the administration were conducted by Dewan Peishcar Bappoo Row (one of the two Rows who followed Colonel Munro on his coming to Travancore).

Suba Iyen Sankaranarayana Iyen, a native Brahman of south Travancore, who had been an attaché in the palace from a long time, and whose experience in Government affairs had been considered great and valuable, was now selected and appointed as Dewan in 990 M.E. (1815 A.D.).

The administrative capacities of this Dewan, did not at all prove equal to the exigencies of the time, and Colonel Munro was under the necessity of advising Her Highness to dispense with his services after a trial of ten months.

In the early part of the year 991 M.E. (1816 A.D.) Ramen Menon, a native of Cochin, who had been employed as a vakeel or pleader in the Travancore courts soon after the organization of the judicial department, and who had been subsequently employed as a judge of the Huzzoor court, was selected by Colonel Munro for the office of Dewan, and he received his commission from Her Highness the Ranee.

This Dewan fully understood his duties, and he commenced his administration in such a manner as to afford general satisfaction. He was honest, intelligent and active, and discharged the functions of his high office impartially and fearlessly.

Ramen Menon's attention was first directed towards the giving of increased efficiency to the system of administration so ably introduced and maintained by

Colonel Munro, for there was a laxity in the carrying out the rules subsequent to the demise of Dewan Daven Padmanabhen.

About this time, the appointment of a European to the rising port of Alleppey, as the Sircar commercial agent, was considered by Colonel Munro as desirable, and Captain Gordon, of the Bombay Engineers, who had already acted as Superintendent of the Travancore Forests, was nominated to the new post with the sanction of Her Highness.

Captain Gordon showed excellent capabilities for his new office, and began to make arrangements for the re-organization of the commercial department, as well as for commencing some speculations in merchandise, but in doing so, he displayed a spirit of independence, which the Dewan considered objectionable, and consequently a misunderstanding between the Dewan and the commercial agent soon arose.

Ramen Menon saw that some measures adopted by Captain Gordon were contrary to the established rules, and therefore took the matter at once into his own hands and investigated it, but in doing so, he was very severe against the agent, who had thus reason to apprehend not very gentle treatment at the hands of the Dewan. Though the original procedure of Captain Gordon, on being reviewed by Colonel Munro, was found to be somewhat irregular, yet he deprecated the Dewan's excessive severity towards a European officer, and Dewan Ramen Menon had the mortification, for the first time, to be discountenanced by Colonel Munro.

Reddy Row alias Vencatta Row, one of the two Rows alluded to above, and who had already received the appointment of Dewan Peishcar (assistant Dewan), had been watching the movements of the Dewan with an eager eye, with the view of supplanting him; so this officer took advantage of this incident, and commenced working out his plans for obtaining the highest post in his adopted country.

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Scarcely had a year passed, before a new measure was suggested by Colonel Munro to Her Highness the Ranee, by which the defunct office of Dalawah was revived, and Dewan Ramen Menon was appointed to the new place, with a curtailment of pay and power; for he was doomed to pass his days in a corner of the palace in idleness, and as a Malayalam proverb would express it, bury his fiery spirit and administrative energies under his "*Paya and Charupalaka*" (mattress and reclining plank); for the officials in those days used to sit on a mattress and recline on a plank. The office now assigned to Ramen Menon was once considered the highest in the State, for in those days the post of 'Dalawah' was the combined office of the commander-in-chief and the prime minister, but now the duty of the Dalawah was simply to sign death-warrants when criminals were sentenced to suffer the extreme penalty of law. This measure was effected in the middle of the year 992 M.E. (1817 A.D.) But it does not appear that Ramen Menon ever entered upon his new duties; he seems to have retired and considered himself a pensioner.

Dewan Peishcar Reddy Row acted for the Dewan for sometime and in the next year 993 M. E. (1817 A.D.), he was appointed Dewan.

Reddy Row having obtained the prize he coveted, began to distinguish himself in his office of Dewan, and Colonel Munro rendered him every help with great pleasure.

Six months after the new Dewan's appointment, Colonel Munro retired from the office of Resident and proceeded to England in the middle of the year 994 M.E. (1819 A.D.), and was succeeded by Colonel McDowell, in the same year.

During the incumbency of Reddy Row, some good was done to the country as under his advice, Her Highness had issued several enactments in the form of proclamations relieving the people from certain imposts

and restrictions, details of which shall be briefly mentioned hereafter.

Generally speaking, Reddy Row's administration does not appear to have been attended with the success which marked the career of his predecessor, Ramen Menon, and public opinion at the time, was that venality amongst the Sircar servants which had been put down and almost eradicated by the strong hand of Colonel Munro, had now begun to crop up and became generally observable throughout the service.

Her Highness the Ranee, who had by this time gained some experience in the affairs of Government, began to feel a little want of confidence in the administration, and the court began in consequence to look minutely into the proceedings of the minister.

The new Resident, Colonel McDowall, reached Trevandrun in the early part of the year 1819 A.D., and he was accompanied by a Mahratta Brahman, named Vencatta Row who was far superior in talent, intelligence, activity and knowledge to his name-sake Dewan Vencatta Row. The new Vencatta Row being a first-rate English scholar, Colonel McDowall made him his interpreter and agent, which office gave him opportunities of frequenting the palace and cultivating an acquaintance with the court.

In a short time, Vencatta Row gained golden opinions not only in the court, but also throughout the kingdom of Travancore, and this secured for him, without much delay, the high post of Dewan Peishcar, and he was employed as an immediate assistant to the Dewan.

Vencatta Row's position with the Resident, added to his own talents and qualifications, made him most influential in the court, in the service, as well as amongst the people, so much so, that Dewan Vencatta Row's influence and fame decreased day by day.

Dewan Peishcar Vencatta Row devoted his attention to all such works as were calculated to secure the

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VI. confidence of Her Highness the Ranee and the goodwill of the people, with the express view, no doubt, of paving his way towards attaining a footing on the highest rung in the ladder. This Peishcar repaired some buildings connected with the pagoda at Trevandrum ; made a golden ornament in the shape of a coat for the image of Sree Padmanabha Swamy ; improved the Ootupurah Department at Trevandrum ; added various ornamental accessories to the royal processions, such as silver howdah, plated sticks or chobdars ; and improved the dress of the sepoys and troops, imitating the Mysore fashion.

Such proceedings on the part of the Dewan Peishcar, while it strengthened his own influence the more in the court, created no little alarm in the mind of Dewan Reddy Row, who now found the instability of his position, as he had himself seen in his own past experience in the instance of his predecessor, Dewan Ramen Menon.

The then Cochin Dewan Nunjeppiah, a Coimbatore Brahman, was considered to be a friend of Colonel Munro as well as of Colonel McDowall, and so Reddy Row Dewan thought of working through him to strengthen his own position. Nunjeppiah ("a cunning old fox" as Colonel Welsh calls him in his work) was invited to Trevandrum under some pretext or other, and he used his power, not only with Colonel McDowall, but also with the court, in Reddy Row's favour ; and Her Highness the Ranee had besides reason to be satisfied with Nunjeppiah for his exertions with Colonel McDowall in certain affairs wherein the court itself was interested. (This state of things would show that the cordiality between the residency and the court had been somewhat affected by the change of Resident.)

Nunjeppiah's mission was attended with complete success ; for Her Highness the Ranee was persuaded by the Dewan and others to remunerate the Cochin minister for his labours by bestowing upon him. as a



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PRINCESS RUCMINI BHYE.

token of Her Highness' approbation and liberality, a tract of land in the Paravoor district to the extent of some six or seven hundred acres, roughly estimated in value at twenty thousand rupees. The royal deed of this grant was dated 17th Audy 995 M.E.

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This may be termed the Row period for, from this time, commenced the administration of the country by a succession of Row ministers.

The worthy guardian of the royal children took great pains in the management and education of the Princess Rugmini Bhye, who now attained her tenth year, had become a tolerably good scholar in Sanscrit, had studied many works of ancient authors and composed slokams in Sanscrit; she was also well trained in native music, and could play on several kinds of musical instruments, such as the veenah, surunggee, (guitar), tamburine, &c.

The two Princes, aged respectively seven and five years, were taught Malayalam, Sanscrit and also English, of which they had learnt much more than from their age one would have thought them capable of.

The Princess Rugmini Bhye having become marriageable, for the tenth year is considered the proper age for performing the marriage ceremony in the royal family, preparations were made and the ceremony was most satisfactorily performed in 995 M.E. (1819 A.D.) with all becoming pomp and grandeur.

During the celebration of this marriage, Her Highness the regent not only entertained for several days, Brahmans, Sudras, and her courtiers with sumptuous feasting, but also entertained in her own palace the European officers of her service, in addition to many outsiders.

Colonel Welsh, alluded to in the 4th Chapter, was one of the party so invited, and wrote an account of the entertainment, portions of which are quoted here in corroboration of the above facts. He says :—"I was proceeding to meet Major Southerland

CHAP. " McDowall, just appointed to succeed Colonel Munro
VL " as Resident, * * * but my friend had not arrived,
" and I put up with Major M'Leod who commanded
" the Ranee's brigade; Captain Gordon of Alleppey
" being Acting Resident and living in the cantonment.
" On the 20th May 1819, still waiting for Major
" McDowall, who had not arrived from Calcutta, we
" received an invitation from the Ranee, * * * When
" alighting at the palace gate, we were ushered into a
" temporary building, * * * where, upon a silver throne
" sat the Ranee of Travancore, who was really a very
" interesting young woman and received us with much
" kindness, *. After the etiquette of a regular intro-
" duction by Captain Gordon, we all took our seats and
" were regaled by dancing girls about two hours, * * *.
" There are two young Rajahs at present in the palace,
" one the rightful heir to the throne, is now seven years
" old and a very fine boy * * * *. The other
" * * * is only three or four. The two young Rajahs
" sat on my knee alternately during the whole evening
" without any restraint * * *. The fire-works from
" the state of the weather, were very poor, but the
" affability and the good sense of Her Highness made
" up in my mind for all the disappointment.* * *.

" On taking our leave at 11 P.M., the Ranee
" entreated us to return next day, but one of the
" ladies being unwell, the party was put off till the
" 22nd, when we again assembled at 8 P.M., and saw
" some excellent fire-works* * * *.

" On the 25th, my worthy friend Major McDowall,
" arriving from Bengal via Madras, the next day
" at noon I accompanied him to pay his first visit
" to the Ranee, and was really gratified with the
" whole scene, as every native of distinction in the
" country had assembled to do honor to the represent-
" ative of the British Government, and all the troops
" were drawn up to receive him. Not a soul but the
" Ranee, however, and the European gentlemen sat
" down, not even the Thumpooratty newly married,

" her bridegroom, the Ranee's father and husband,
 " the widower of a former Ranee nor the Dewan or
 " prime minister. The two young Rajahs made
 " speeches to the new Resident, and the younger on
 " this occasion seemed the most at home; amongst
 " other questions he asked " how all the gentlemen at
 " Madras?" and sat down very contentedly on the
 " Major's knee; the heir apparent not appearing
 " equally to relish his propinquity to a stranger * * *,
 " and we took our leave promising to return in the
 " evening.

" Having dined at the residency at 4 o'clock, at
 " half-past 9, we received Her Highness' summons,
 " when we proceeded to the fort, and were immediately
 " ushered into her presence in the hall of audience
 " * * *. We saw the fire-works from the front
 " verandah, which were certainly very grand, parti-
 " cularly some rockets, which ran on a horizontal line
 " guided by ropes attached to strong poles and some
 " of them fastened to figures, which they impelled
 " with surprising velocity; and also some batteries,
 " which after imitating the roar of cannon and mus-
 " ketry, suddenly exploded like mines; throwing
 " up a profusion of fire-balls. After this exhibition,
 " we descended to a similar hall on the ground-floor
 " where a good supper was laid out for the European
 " visitors; after partaking of which we again descended
 " to witness another Malabar play * * *, at the same
 " time six nice little boys were performing feats of
 " activity, with large knives and swords, by far the
 " best part of the entertainment; and we got home
 " nearly exhausted at 2 o'clock in the morning.

" On the 27th, we again assembled at the palace at
 " half-past 3 P.M. to dinner, after which we were enter-
 " tained with wrestling and feats of agility in the
 " court-yard * * *, at 9, a lady arising, the Ranee
 " kindly sent word, that as it was raining hard, she would
 " come down and sit with us, which she accordingly
 " did for an hour, when, telling us we had better take

CHAP. VI. "our suppers, she wished us good night and retired ;
" we accordingly followed her advice and broke up at
" midnight.

" On the 28th, we had a repetition of the same feast-
ing and exhibitions as the day before ; and the fire-
works, notwithstanding the rain, were really capital
" and afforded us much amusement.

" On the 29th, there was another repetition, with all
" the elements against us ; and at 1 A.M., we took our
" leave of this affable and interesting Princess." (Mili-
tary Reminiscences, Volume 2, page 144.)

As Her Highness Rugmini Bhye was the only Princess to be married in the royal family at that period, and as there would be no occasion for such an expenditure till the birth of a female member, and her becoming marriageable, Her Highness the Regent wished that the marriage ceremony of the Princess should stand first in the list of such ceremonies, especially at a time when the finances of Travancore were able to meet such a demand, and thus the festivities connected with the ceremony were allowed to be continued for a fortnight.

Colonel McDowall died in 995 M.E. (1820 A.D.), and Colonel Newall was appointed Resident in the middle of the same year 995 M.E. (1820 A.D.)

Dewan Reddy Row had not only re-established confidence in the palace, but also stood high in the estimation of Her Highness the Ranees. After the satisfactory conduct of the marriage affairs, the minister now, taking advantage of the time, claimed some special consideration from Her Highness in recognition of his labours. Reddy Row gained over some influential parties about Her Highness, and worked through them to accomplish his object ; and in the year 996 M.E. (1821 A.D.), he received a jaggeer consisting of the two villages of Shamboor and Wadakaray in the Shencottah district.



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COCHU KOIL THUMPURAN.

Dewan Peishcar Vencatta Row was still watching for an opportunity for the overthrow of the minister, and he availed himself of the above incident to carry out his plans ; while Ramen Menon Dalawah was ready to assist the Peishcar to revenge himself on Reddy Row for all the mortifications he had endured.

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The Dewan's improper acceptance of a grant was brought to the notice of the new Resident, and after a thorough investigation, the Dewan was made to return the document he received from Her Highness, and ultimately the transaction resulted in the resignation of Dewan Vencatta Row, commonly called Reddy Row.

Towards the end of 997 M.E. (1822 A.D.), Dewan Peishcar Vencatta Row was appointed Dewan, and he commenced his career in quite a different way from that of his predecessor. Being an educated man and blessed with sufficient wisdom and intelligence, he imitated the mode of administration adopted by Colonel Munro and his task was lightened by the experience he had acquired in the various departments as a Dewan Peishcar.

In order to obtain popular approbation, his first step was to obtain Her Highness the Ranee's sanction for granting a general remission of arrears of tax accumulated since the administration of Colonel Munro. This measure had the desired effect, for the people of Travancore at once began to look upon the Dewan as a great benefactor, and every measure he adopted afterwards was viewed by the people with approbation and satisfaction.

A few months prior to the departure of Colonel Munro in the Malabar year 994, (1819 A.D.), the guardian of the royal children, the Valia Koil Tham-puran urged the necessity of placing the English education of the two Princes under a competent tutor, and Her Highness the Ranee requested Colonel Munro to get one for the Princes. After careful inquiry, T. Subba Row, of Tanjore, was recommended by the

CHAP. Resident for the important office of training the two
VI. Princes.

The proposed tutor, Subba Row, arrived in Trevandrum a couple of months after Colonel Munro's departure and commenced his onerous labours. In the course of a couple of years both the Princes made considerable progress in their English studies ; Subba Row training the Princes in the Mahratta language also. There were other masters to teach them Sanscrit, Hindoostani, Persian, Telugu, Canarese, &c., &c., and in all these languages the Princes made great progress ; their guardian, the Valia Koil Thampuran also devoted his unremitting care and attention to their education.

The following observation by Colonel Welsh on the studies of these two Princes towards the middle of May 1825, bears out the above statement :

" Being on a tour of inspection during the month of " May, and stopping to pass a few days at the residency " with Colonel Newall, I had the opportunity of wit- " nessing the studies of the young Rajahs in private, " and forming an estimate of their progressive acquire- " ments and abilities. On the morning of the 16th " at 10 o'clock, I accompanied the Colonel in his gig " without attendants, to the fort, where we were " immediately conducted to a room in the palace and " found them with their father, their sister, her husband " and their school-master ready to receive us. The " elder boy, now thirteen, seemed greatly improved " in mind, though rather diminutive in person. He " read a chapter of Malcolm's Central India ; the " Governor-General's Persian letter on the capture of " Rangoon ; a passage in Sanscrit ; another in Malaya- " lam and seemed equally clever at each. He then " took up a book of mathematics, selecting the forty- " seventh proposition of Euclid, sketched the figure " on a country slate ; but what astonished me most was " his telling us in English, that Geometry was derived " from the Sanscrit, which was "jaw metor" to



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" measure the earth, and that many of our mathematical terms were also derived from the same source such as hexagon, heptagon, octagon, decagon, duo-decagon, &c., &c. His remarks were generally apposite, but their language inelegant and ungrammatical. This is much to be lamented, because with so many studies on hand, he can never read enough of English to correct his idiom ; and the master, a very clever Tanjore Brahmin, could not speak it much better than himself. His Persian was pure and elegant, but of the other languages, I am too ignorant to offer an opinion. This promising boy is now, I conclude, sovereign of the finest country in India; for he was to succeed to the musnud, the moment he had attained his sixteenth year. The younger brother gave us various specimens of his acquirements, somewhat inferior of course to those of the rising sun of the country, but still very fair.

" The Princess at whose wedding I was present in 1819, was grown both fat and coarse. Their father, a very handsome man about the middle age is their joint guardian with the Ranee and Resident ; but has no other power or authority whatever. The Princess' husband looks very much like her younger brother ; indeed, apart, I should not know the one from the other. At noon we took our leave much gratified " with this domestic scene.

" I have not made any mention of the present Dewan, an uncommonly handsome, fair, and elegant Carnatic Brahmin. His name is Vencatta Row, and he is one of the most intelligent, well educated men I have met with in India, and writes an excellent English letter. As far as I could learn he was most attentive and unremitting in his exertions for the improvement of the country and the good of the State. Such a man to educate the young Princes would " have been worth his weight in gold." (Page 235).

Dewan Vencatta Row's administration afforded perfect satisfaction to Her Highness the Ranee, to the

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VI. Resident as well as to the people in general. He established his head-quarters (Huzzoor Cutcherry) at Quilon, the centre of Travancore, where the appeal and other courts were located.

The Dewan grew popular day by day, as he made it a point to give free access to him, to all classes of people, every day at an appointed time, when he personally enquired into every petitioner's grievance regarding revenue as well as other matters. He was a capital revenue officer, while in his knowledge of magisterial functions he was scarcely surpassed by any one at the time in Travancore. Many a reform and improvement has been introduced by this Dewan, and under his administration the country was soon again in a very flourishing condition.

Colonel Munro had it in contemplation to construct two canals ; one from Trevandrum to the backwater of Kadinafcolum, and the other to connect the Quilon and Paroor backwaters together, and thus extend water communication from Trevandrum to the north.

This most useful work was sanctioned by Her Highness the Ranee in the year 999 M.E. (1824 A.D.), and operations were commenced in the next year. In the course of three years the work was completed at a comparatively small expenditure.

Several other useful works connected with irrigation were undertaken and completed during the reign of Her Highness the Ranee, and under the administration of Dewan Vencatta Row.

It was this large-hearted and enlightened Ranee who sanctioned English missionary labors in Travancore, and it was in her time that regularly established Protestant Missions were commenced, though perfect toleration of Christianity had been guaranteed by the Travancore sovereigns from the earliest period of the Christian era. This is proved by the copper plate documents in the possession of the Syrian Christians at Cottayam already alluded to, especially the one given by Perumal Sthanu Revi Guptha, the second document

published in the Madras Journal of Literature and Science, page 126 to 130, showing that the Travancore sovereign had permitted the Perumal to give a perpetual grant of a tract of land for building a Christian church. Subsequent to this event, other grants of lands for the erection of Christian churches were made and are continued up to the present day, and the immense number of places of Christian worship now seen on the Travancore territory, between Thovalay and Paravoor, furnish evidence of the impartial countenance the Travancore sovereigns have always given to the Christian religion, which indeed the Hindus do not generally view in a friendly light.

Though Mr. Ringeltaube, a Danish missionary, had established the nucleus of what was afterwards the London Mission in the year 1806 A.D., and had made some attempts to establish his mission on a proper scale in Myladee, the southern frontier of Travancore, his labours were not attended with much success for a long time, yet, it was during this Ranee's reign in 1816 A.D. (991 M.E.) that the London Mission was permanently established at Nagercoil.

Her Highness the Ranee not only sanctioned the location of a few missionary gentlemen within her territories, but also made generous and liberal donations for their assistance, as for instance, a sum of five thousand rupees and a large bungalow at Nagercoil to enable them to carry on their Mission labors. But what was still more extraordinary was that Her Highness even admitted one of these gentlemen belonging to the London Mission, the Rev. C. Mead, in her service as a Judge of the Zillah Court at Nagercoil.

In this very year 1816 A.D. (991 M.E.) Her Highness had, under the advice of Colonel Munro, sanctioned the erection of a large Protestant church at Alleppey and gave the teak timber, required for the building, free of all charges, permitting, at the same-time, the residence of the Rev. T. Norton at Alleppey as a Chaplain there.

CHAP. During this year, the Church Mission Society was
VI. also permitted to commence its operations at Cottayam, for the improvement of the Syrians, the oldest Christian subjects of Her Highness' territories. To these people, the Resident, Colonel Munro, devoted great attention, and the Church Mission Society commenced working conjointly with the Syrian Metran. In order to facilitate their work in the education of the Christian, a College was opened, and towards its maintenance, this most generous Ranee granted a donation of twenty thousand Rupees, with which they purchased gardens and paddy-fields, the income derived from which paid for the maintenance of the College. Colonel Munro in his address to the Government of Fort St. George on the state of Christianity in Travancore, thus refers to this event:—

“The temporal situation of the Syrians has also been
 “materially improved. I have frequently taken
 “occasion to bring them to the notice of Her Highness
 “the Ranee of Travancore; and her intelligent, liberal
 “and ingenuous mind has always appeared to feel a
 “deep interest in their history, misfortunes and char-
 “acter. She is aware of the attention excited to their
 “situation in Europe, and her anxiety to manifest
 “the sincerity of her attachment to the British nation
 “has formed, I believe, an additional motive for the
 “kindness and generosity she has uniformly displayed
 “towards the Syrians. She has appointed a con-
 “siderable number of them to public offices; and
 “lately presented the sum of twenty thousand Rupees
 “to the College of Cottayam, as an endowment for its
 “support. The Syrians are most grateful for her
 “goodness; and cherish, in no ordinary degree,
 “the sentiments of affection and respect towards her
 “person that are entertained by every class of her
 “subjects.”

Subsequent events however, disorganized and shattered this most useful institution, and the lands were sold, minus that portion of the gift which fell on

division to the lot of the Church Mission Society and which is still in the enjoyment of the society. This is called Munro's Island and is in the Kallada Prover-
thy near Quilon, which yields an annual rent of about two thousand five hundred Rupees to the said Society.*

Thus it will be seen that this worthy Ranee of happy memory, was the founder and supporter of the English missions in Travancore, and a generous promoter of the cause of education and of Christian knowledge in this fortunate kingdom. The present Nair brigade was formally organized during this reign, though it was partly in existence during the reign of Her Highness the late Lekshmi Bhye, when 700 men and a few mounted troopers out of the remains of the Travancore military force, were re-admitted and retained as an attendant force on royalty. But now, by the special request of Her Highness, the Madras Government sanctioned the proposal to have a Brigade consisting of 2,100 men under the command of English officers, and also to increase the mounted troop to fifty men forming a cavalry squadron. This was early in the year 994 M.E. (1819 A.D.) Captain Macleod of the 9th Regiment M.N.I., was the first East India Company's officer who commanded Her Highness' military forces. Two six-pounders and two nine-pounders had also been attached for firing salutes, which honor had been dispensed with subsequent to the rebellion of 1809.

The introduction of vaccination, though proposed and arranged towards the close of the last reign, was formally effected and the entertainment of vaccinators

* (a) In order to prevent the Syrians dissipating the gift of this Princess when the College lands were sold, the proceeds were deposited in the Resident's treasury till the year 1872, when the old College being re-established by the Syrians, the money now nearly doubled was given on mortgages and the interest supports thirty of these candidates learning for the priesthood, besides providing for teachers.

(b) The Church Mission provide two European teachers and ten native assistants at their own expense and have built another College and provides boarding for seventy-five lads and an equal number of day boys are educated by the proceeds of Munro Island rents.

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VI. and the enforcement of a regular system of vaccination, practically attended to in the commencement of the first year of this Ranee's reign.

Of the numerous enactments, promulgated during Her Highness' reign, the following are the most memorable, viz. ; 1st, the prohibition of the exaction of ooliyum service, from Christian ryots, when such was connected with any of the Hindu religious ceremonies ; 2nd, the employment of Christians for any public works on Sundays ; 3rd, the introduction of stamped cadjans for documents ; 4th, the removal of restrictions as regards the wearing of golden and silver ornaments by Sudras and others ; 5th, the abolition of the poll-tax on people of the Chetty and other castes, when they were Devaswam ryots ; 6th, the introduction of coffee cultivation in general and the prohibition against judicial officers holding private conferences with parties concerned in cases, either at the court or at their private residences or even giving them admission into their dwellings, &c., &c., &c.

Towards the close of this reign, the tutor Suba Row, became very influential in the court. His royal pupils had grown up and completed their studies, and as the eldest of them was soon to ascend the musnud, Suba Row was naturally looked upon as His Highness' principal adviser, and the leader of the court.

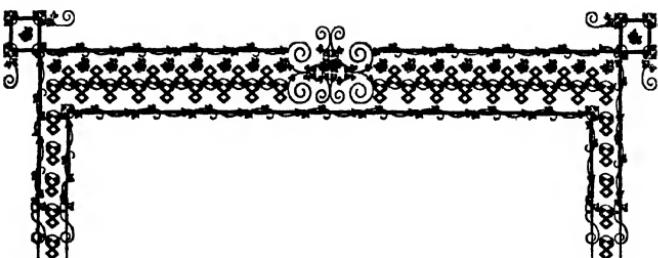
When Suba Row's influence increased, Dewan Vencatta Row's power began to decline ; for, the Dewan was now apprehensive of being supplanted by Suba Row, but though all arrangements for the overthrow of the minister, Vencatta Row, were ripe, Her Highness the Ranee would not sanction the measure, and left the question to be decided after the formal installation of the elder Prince, which event was then very nigh at hand.

In the Malabar year 1004 (1829 A.D.) His Highness Rama Vurma closed his sixteenth year of age and thus attained his majority, when that most worthy and illustrious Princess the Ranee made over the kingdom,

with pleasure and cordiality to her sister's son. The State under her regency was well governed, the people were contented; the finances were in a flourishing condition, and an able and meritorious administrator in the person of Dewan Vencatta Row was at the helm of Government. Her most gracious Highness retired to enjoy a peaceful life, though retaining all the honors appertaining to a reigning sovereign, with a consciousness that every endeavour had been made by her for the happiness of all, and proud to hear public opinion unanimous in declaring that success had attended Her Highness' administration.

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CHAPTER VII.

SREE PADMANABHA DASA VANJI PALA RAMA VURMAH KULA.
SEKHARA KIREETAPATHI SWATHI RAMA RAJAH MUNNAY
SULTAN MAHARAJ RAJA RAMA RAJA BAHDUR
SHAMSHEER JUNG MAHA RAJAH.

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HIIS illustrious sovereign was really the King of Travancore from the very day of his birth, but His Highness having now attained his majority, was formally installed on the musnud in his sixteenth year, and assumed charge of affairs from the regent Ranee, on the 10th Madom 1004 M.E. (21st April 1829, A.D.)

Notwithstanding his youth, His Highness' aptness for the right discharge of the functions devolving on him was something wonderful. Besides, His Highness was fortunate in receiving the kingdom from the hands of the Ranee in a most flourishing condition, the result of the judicious administration of the last eighteen years by two of His Highness' predecessors, his mother Lekshmi Ranee and his aunt Parvathi Ranee. The financial state of the country was promising. The State contained a very contented population, and the machinery of the administration was worked by the best agencies.

The young Maha Rajah had also the advantage of the advice and counsel of his worthy father, the able tutor, the meritorious Dewan, as well as many old and experienced ministerial servants, both in the palace and in other departments. The Resident, Colonel Morrison, C.B., a very able officer, was also a warm supporter of the Maha Rajah.



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RAMA VURMAH MAHA RAJAH.

These auspicious circumstances and advantages, CHAP.
and His Highness' talents, education, and the requisite
qualifications and trained habits, gave prospects of a
happy and glorious reign to which the people in
general looked forward with feelings of pleasure.

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Though a short biographical account of this remarkable young sovereign has already been given in the last chapter, yet a few words on the Maha Rajah's scholastic attainments may not be out of place here. By the time His Highness attained his majority, he had completed his education and become a perfect master of Sanscrit, English, Persian, Hindustani, Maharatti, Telugu, Canarese, Tamil and Malayalim. The fact that His Highness was a good English scholar will have been seen from the passage quoted from Colonel Welsh's "Military Reminiscences," in the previous chapter. That account, however, was written some four years previous to His Highness completing his English education. The Maha Rajah was also a remarkable Sanscrit author. He composed numerous poetical works on Metaphysics, Religion, &c., &c. A Sanscrit poetical work called a "Prabandham" containing historical collections, was also composed by him in addition to numerous songs and hymns in praise of the Almighty and the creation of the universe. He also composed similar songs in Telugu, Hindustani, Mahratta, and other languages and these are even to the present day well known throughout India.

A specimen of the Maha Rajah's Sanscrit composition as translated by the Reverend Mr. Mateer and inserted in his "Land of Chamty," page 146, may be reproduced here as a proof of the Maha Rajah's skill in Sanscrit composition :—

" More special interest naturally attaches to a poem
" composed and published by His Highness the late
" Rajah Vunchee Pala Rama Vurmah, elder uncle of
" the present Maha Rajah, who died in 1846. It is
" considered by native scholars to be a good specimen

CHAP. " of modern Sanscrit poetry, the compound poetical
VII. " terms being formed according to standard rules, the
 " sentences skilfully constructed and the whole adapted
 " to be sung to the most popular and melodious
 " Hindu tunes. This work contains hymns in praise of
 " Pultmanabhen, the tutelar deity of the "charitable
 " kingdom," but of course is thoroughly superstitious
 " and, after a fashion, devout in sentiment and tone.

" The first hymn commences thus :—

" O thou, lord of earth, husband of Sree (the
 " goddess of prosperity.) thou, O God, who hast
 " lotus-like-eyes save me: O holy Pultmanabhen,
 " whose chariot is drawn by birds, save me! O thou,
 " who art worshipped by the king of the Suras
 " (celestials), thou, who art full of goodness, subduer
 " of enemies, giver of blessings to thy servants, thou
 " who hast arms admirably powerful, thou who art
 " adored by the holy ones, save me; O thou upholder
 " of mountains, thou enemy of Mura (a demon) thou
 " seat of mercy, remover of the suffering arising from
 " births and deaths.

" Remove my manifold sins, O Souri, (a name of
 " Vishnu), who walked in the most holy gardens of
 " bliss and happiness. Remove my manifold sins, O
 " thou destroyer of Kashipu, who was a terror to the
 " three worlds, thou who shinest like gold, remove my
 " manifold sins, thou purifier from sins, thou joy of the
 " shepherdess, thou who art adorned with features,
 " thou who art devoid of passions, whose lotus-like-
 " foot measures the universe. Remove my manifold
 " sins, O my lord, who takest away sorrows, thou O
 " Souri who hast the sun and the moor for thine eyes.

" The last hymn is an address to the soul as follows :—

" O my mind, be thou always fixed upon God. Ah !
 " tell me, art thou not incessantly fixed on self. O my
 " mind, know that this thy body is fragile; be not over
 " anxious, do not covet earth, delight in the history
 " of Madhava (Vishnu) which is full of joy, holy and

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“ divine, oh my mind, cherish not rude ignorance ; let
 “ not dreadful sins have place in thy thought ; avoid
 “ evil communications. O my mind, be kind to every
 “ one. Consider, all things as thou considerest thyself,
 “ put away thy sorrows, and with all thy strength
 “ incessantly serve the azure tinted Padmanabhen
 “ O my mind be thou always fixed upon God.”

“ It should be borne in mind that this poem is the production of one well acquainted with many of the truths inculcated by the Christian religion.”

Besides the above, this Maha Rajah had composed a most valuable set of hymns under the denomination of Navarathna Mala (garland of nine gems) the substance of which shall be added to the Revd. Mr. Mateer's versions.

The Hindu religion lays down and describes nine kinds of divine devotions, viz., hearing, uttering, thinking, serving, adoring, worshipping, depending, or enslaving, believing and committing, and the Maha Rajah had composed a hymn on each of these nine items :—

“ Hearing.

“ O Padmanabha ! (such is the Sanscrit appellation of the creator of the universe) bless me that both of my ears may be filled with the heavenly nectar of thy prayers which is a safe vessel for the conveyance of life through the ocean of birth and death, which prayer is the continual utterance of even the heavenly bodies and which is the pioneer to break through the mountain of sin to approach thy presence.

“ Uttering.

“ O Padmanabha ! bless me, that I may utter thy name always without interruption. Thy holy name is the sure way to salvation for human beings. Thy name, though uttered unintentionally, saves even sinners as in the case of Ajmilen. Thy name is the constant utterance of Siva, one of the three great deities of heaven.

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O Padmanabha ! bless my heart, that I may constantly think of thee alone during the tenure of my worldly life. Thy thought is the only light like the rays of the sun which drives away darkness from the world, and which thought alone is capable of affording eternal bliss, pleasure and comfort without regard of poor or rich, O God ! lord of the universe.

“Thinking.

“O God, Sree Padmanabha ! bless me, that I may serve thee in many ways, that I may be the bearer of thy shoes, that I may serve thee with a fan in hand, that I may shampoo thy holy feet, that I may hold an umbrella over thy holy person, and that I may with pleasure employ myself in collecting offerings to thee.

“Serving.

“O God of the universe ! bless me, that I may adore thee with my mind, word and deeds. Thou art the only holy ghost who removes sins, and who alone is capable of purifying the whole universe ; bless me, O God ! that I may seat thee on a throne set with nine gems, and that I may wash thee with odoriferous water, clothe thee in the whitest garments, anoint thee with sandals and other scents, adorn thee with all kinds of fragrant flowers, and make thee my offerings, O Almighty God.

“Adoring.

“O God, lord of lords ! I worship thy feet which is washed in heavenly water, and which is the only source of protection and salvation to the helpless.

“Depending or enslaving.

“O Providence ! Sree Padmanabha ! I entirely depend upon thy holiness which is the object constantly adored even by all the heavenly bodies, and which alone extends salvation or eternal happiness to all beings.

*"Believing."*CHAP.
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"O God ! bless me, that I may place my entire belief always in thee who art the destroyer of all sin, and suffering in the universe ; numerous deities and gods are worshipped, but I may not be changeable or doubting in my mind in regard to such worship, and that thy mercy be upon me, that my mind may be steadily directed to thy true belief as thou art the only supreme being who is capable of affording salvation.

"Committing."

"O God, lord of lords ! bless me, for I commit unto thee my body, my soul, my habitation, my property and all other things of mine to thee, so that, thy protection may be constantly over these, like the owner of a thing purchased by him, and that thy mercy may be upon me ; forgive me for all my sins and also my faults in my utterance of these hymns which are offerings of thy true devotee, and which I have directed as an offering unto thy holy feet, and I pray thee to accept these my humble and devoted prayers, as committed by thy pious servant."

His Highness had equally qualified himself in political matters by his assiduous study of various English and Sanscrit works, and he acquired a thorough knowledge of the Institutes of Manu. His Highness made it a point to discuss important questions on Logic and Rhetoric, both in English and in Sanscrit, and thus became capable of entering into the discussion of any subject, without fear of being defeated by other learned men.

Soon after the installation, His Highness' attention was directed to the remodelling of the cabinet, and as His Highness had a very high opinion of his tutor, Suba Row, and of his ability and knowledge, he wanted to appoint him Dewan, but the idea of dispensing with the services of the able and popular Dewan Vencatta Row, was not approved of by His Highness' father, by Her Highness the Ranee, and by the Resi-

CHAP. VII. dent, Colonel Morrison. The controversy on this subject lasted about six months, and in the interval the able Resident, Colonel Morrison, was removed, and Dewan Vencatta Row tendered his resignation. Two months afterwards, *i.e.*, in the middle of the year 1005 M.E. (early part of 1830) Suba Row was appointed to the vacant office of Dewan, and Cochu Sankara Pillay, a native of Travancore who was then holding the appointment of a Judge in the Huzzoor Court, was made Dewan Peishcar. These two appointments were followed by several other changes among the ministers.

The Huzzoor Cutcherry and other public offices which had been held at Quilon for a long time were removed to Trevandrum, and located inside the fort, close to the Maha Rajah's palace.

As Suba Row wanted to surpass his predecessor, he spared no pains to distinguish himself in his new sphere. He displayed all his experience and tact and commenced a career which fully justified His Highness' selection of him for the high post of prime minister.

The Dewan's conduct was quite in accordance with His Highness' urgent desire of bringing Travancore to such a state as to entitle her to the appellation of "model State." Suba Row had, at the very outset, established a reputation far superior to that of his predecessor.

Every suggestion emanating from Dewan Suba Row received ready sanction from His Highness the Maha Rajah, and every subordinate, from the Dewan Peishcar downwards, looked upon the Dewan with the greatest regard and respect.

Reformation and the maintenance of a rigid moral discipline were the chief aim and ambition of this young sovereign, and so the petty abuses which were overlooked during the late administration were totally checked by special enactments. Bribery and corruption were pointed out as crimes severely punishable, and those servants who gave cause even for suspicion



DEWAN SUBBA ROW.

were visited with the royal displeasure. The Maha Rajah was so minute in his inquiries, as his attention appears to have been directed even to the irregularity of attendance on the public servants, and such remissness they were informed would render them liable to dismissal from the service. Tahsildars and other local officials were warned against any oppressive treatment of the ryots. In short, several useful measures were introduced by royal proclamation in the course of a couple of years.

His Highness had set apart a few hours every day to attend to public business, and days were appointed for receiving the Dewan, the Judges of the appeal court, the palace officers, &c., with their respective reports.

This measure of hearing reports directly from each department, facilitated the speedy conduct of public business by the several department officials.

Thus, the Maha Rajah by evincing particular interest in the conduct of public affairs encouraged men of talent and intelligence, and in the course of a few years after His Highness' ascent to the musnud the Maha Rajah's court and cutcherries had the benefit of several men of talent, learning and experience.

The Governor of Madras, Mr. Lushington, paid a visit to Travancore, and had an interview with the young Prince at Quilon, in the early part of August 1830.

His Excellency the Governor was highly delighted with the affability, intelligence, wisdom and gentlemanly disposition of His Highness. The object of this visit of the Governor appears to have been to satisfy himself as to the qualifications of so young a Prince for ruling Travancore.

It is also said, that there had been a little misunderstanding between the Travancore court and the Resident, Colonel Morrison, concerning the then Dewan Vencatta Row's proposed disconnection with

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CHAP. Travancore, and that Colonel Morrison had made some
VII. reports unfavorable to the state of things in Travancore, which circumstance induced Mr. Lushington to visit the country and ascertain the exact state of affairs by a personal inspection, while he was on a tour to the Malabar coast.

Mr. Lushington was the first Governor of Madras who visited Travancore.

On this occasion the Maha Rajah had an opportunity of witnessing the whole of the subsidiary force in full parade, and after His Highness' return from Quilon the improvement of the Nair brigade engaged his attention. New accoutrements were ordered, and the officer commanding was particularly requested to drill and train the sepoys and make them equal to the Company's troops.

The clothing of the mounted troops had also been improved, and new horses were supplied to the troopers. Old stables were repaired and made into three divisions, one for the troopers, one for the royal stud, and another for the horses to be supplied to the palace officials and attendants, as well as to the public officials who accompany the Maha Rajah during State processions, and also on other movements on urgent public duty.

The horse breeding establishment introduced and maintained at Thovalay during the former reigns and which supplied good horses to the Trevandrum stables, was improved. Some fine mares were procured, and all old and defective horses of different breeds were removed from the establishment.

The best elephants from the forest department and other places were selected and cantoned at Trevandrum for carrying howdahs, flags and other royal emblems.

To the Trevandrum stables was attached a menagerie where royal tigers, panthers, cheetahs, deer, boars and all sorts of wild animals which abound in the Travancore forests were collected and caged. And

latterly, a lioness which had been imported from Africa into the French settlement at Mahé, was purchased and added to the collection of animals. CHAP.
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A large and spacious cow-stall was constructed within the Trevandrum fort, near the palace, wherein the finest cows and bulls of the country were stalled in addition to a good number of Surat, Guzerat and Nellore cows and bulls, and to complete the collection and breed, a beautiful English cow, with two calves, was procured direct from England.

Birds of all kinds, indigenous and foreign, were collected, and they had a place both in the menagerie and the palace.

The wild and ferocious animals were not only kept for sight-seers, but for purposes of sham sport. For this purpose, strong nets of a circular form were hung on deeply driven stakes, within which, several sorts of wild and fierce animals were let in one by one, and the Maha Rajah and all the spectators were amused and interested by seeing the movements and the fighting of the animals, while a number of huntsmen and others, surrounded the circle, equipped with spears, lances, and fire arms, ready to fall upon any animal which might accidentally escape out of the nets.

Three years after the Maha Rajah's accession to the musnud, Munsiff's courts were established for the first time in every district throughout Travancore, for the disposal of petty civil cases, and in the next year, the Huzzoor court was abolished, and a Zillah court established at Trevandrum in lieu of it. Appreciative of ability and talent, and desirous of improving the administration, this young Maha Rajah conceived the idea of inviting persons of acknowledged qualifications and probity from the British territories and even in the British Government's service, in order to assist Dewan Suba Row in his exertions to introduce reforms.

The then Resident, Mr. Casamaijor, brought to His Highness' notice, the ability and intelligence of a

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tahsildar personally known to himself in one of the talooks under the Malabar collectorate, who accompanied the Commissariat during the Coorg campaign in the year 1834. The Maha Rajah, authorized the Resident to invite that officer to enter the service of the Travancore Government.

This tahsildar's name was Itterarichen Cundappen, generally known as Cunden Menon. This person accepted the offer of a Dewan Peishcar's post in the Huzzoor cutcherry, and was accordingly appointed in the middle of the year 1010 M.E. (early part of 1835 A.D.)

Dewan Peishcar Cunden Menon proved to be an excellent acquisition to the Travancore service, and he afforded such great satisfaction to His Highness, and merited ere long his perfect confidence, that the Maha Rajah placed the details of the administration in the Peishcar's hands, and directed Dewan Suba Row to place similar trust in the Peishcar, ordering further that if the Dewan should entertain doubts on any points of importance, he should report the same personally to His Highness.

Cunden Menon Peishcar began to manage business and to afford general satisfaction. In a short time, he merited the applause of the people who now began to talk of him as second only to ex-Dewan Vencatta Row.

The principal object of the Maha Rajah in inviting Cunden Menon, was to compile a code of laws for Travancore; founded upon the enactments then in force in the Honorable East India Company's territories.

Cunden Menon undertook this most important and onerous task, and having formed a committee of experienced officers in the Travancore service, he consulted with them and examined all the rules then in force in Travancore. They then commenced the drafting and arranging of the regulations, which they finished in the course of a few months.

As the Peishcar had no knowledge of English, all his writings were translated by competent English scholars. The Maha Rajah and the Resident highly approved of the code, and it was printed at the Cottayam Mission Press (the Sircar having no press of their own at that time), and the new code was promulgated as the law of Travancore, and brought into force from the year 1011 M.E. (1836 A.D.)

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This was the first code of regulations ever adopted and promulgated in Travancore. It consisted of eight chapters. The first five chapters contain the civil code and procedure and the constitutions of Munsiffs, Zillah and appeal courts; the sixth regulation vests tahsildars with police authority, and Zillah courts with criminal powers; and the seventh and eighth authorise appeal court judges to perform the functions of session courts.

To carry out the provisions laid out by the new code, it was necessary to have a staff of competent agents, and to place a qualified person on the bench of the appeal court, Cunden Menon Peishcar recommended His Highness to invite one of the Munsiffs in the Malabar zillah. In accordance with this suggestion, the services of one Bagavuntha Row, a Munsiff, were availed of, he having been invited through the Resident. Bagavuntha Row was appointed first judge of the appeal court on his arrival in Trevandrum.

By Regulation VI, the power of supreme magistracy was vested in the Dewan, and by that measure Cunden Menon Peishcar became virtually the head magistrate, and he took in hand the organization of the police and magistracy, while Bagavuntha Row, Judge, arranged every point connected with the civil and criminal departments. In the course of a few months, the powers of the judicial departments in Travancore were clearly established, and placed on a permanent footing, and the people became generally acquainted with the newly introduced system.

A couple of years subsequent to Suba Row's appoint-

CHAP. VII. ment as Dewan, he began to arrange for the conduct of a general garden survey, which was then over due in accordance with established rule, as no such survey had been held since the year 993 M.E., when one was commenced by the Dewan Daven Padmanabhen and concluded in 993, during the administration of Reddy Row. Dewan Peishcar Cunden Menon got the credit of carrying the measure into execution, during that officer's time, and this survey was concluded in the year 1012 M.E. (1837 A.D.), subsequent to the said Peishcar's death.

Dewan Suba Row, whose powers had been virtually usurped by the intelligent and painstaking Dewan Peishcar, had nothing to do beyond affixing his signature to all the communications prepared under the directions of Cunden Menon. The Dewan now grew jealous, and in consultation with his first assistant Dewan Peishcar Cochu Sankara Pillay, who was also highly envious of his junior colleagues' success in office, began to thwart the Peishcar in many of his really praiseworthy undertakings. But Suba Row's ill-devised endeavours against Cunden Menon were not successful, as the Peishcar had the firm support of the Maha Rajah and the Resident in all really important measures. But the successful career of Cunden Menon was arrested by his sudden and serious illness.

After a distinguished service of two years, he died at Trevandrum. In him, Travancore lost a most able and promising officer, from whom the people expected still greater benefits if providence had spared him.

In the Malabar year 1011 (1836 A.D.), the Maha Rajah sanctioned the abolition of duty on one hundred and sixty-five articles of different descriptions on which inland, as well as export and import duty, had been levied. The advantages of English education being fully appreciated by the Maha Rajah from personal experience, His Highness now thought of placing the same within the reach of his subjects, by introducing an educational system in Travancore.

In 1009 M.E. (1834 A.D.), His Highness in consultation with the Dewan, sanctioned the opening of an English school at Trevandrum, and Mr. J. Roberts, who was then keeping a private school at Nagercoil, was invited to take charge of this institution, on a monthly grant of 100 Rupees. Subsequently, in the Malabar year 1012 (1836 A.D.) this institution was converted into a Sircar free school, and Mr. Roberts was admitted into the Sircar service, on a salary of 300 Rupees per mensem. The then Resident Colonel and afterwards General J. S. Fraser, a gentleman who delighted in the patronage of sciences and learning, also took a great interest in the spread of English education in Travancore. The establishment of the free school was followed by the opening of a few branch schools in the districts. Thus was English education introduced in Travancore by this illustrious sovereign, and thus was Western knowledge offered to the Maha Rajah's subjects free of any charge.

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The Maha Rajah, even when a student, used to compare the relative connection between Sanscrit and English sciences, a fact which is also mentioned by Colonel Welsh; and as His Highness had a good knowledge of the Hindu science of astronomy, he had often discussed the subject with the then commercial agent of Alleppey, Mr. Caldecott, who being well versed in that science, used to make astronomical observations with several portable instruments of his own. Mr. Caldecott's descriptions of his observations of the various movements of the heavenly bodies, closely corresponding with the calculations and observations of the Hindu Astronomers, the Maha Rajah was most anxious for a thorough investigation of this science.

At about this time, the Maha Rajah being on a tour to the northern districts, visited Alleppey, and had thus an opportunity of examining several interesting astronomical instruments, belonging to Mr. Caldecott, who suggested the construction of a small Observatory

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VII. at Alleppey ; but the Maha Rajah wished to have a good building erected at Trevandrum. His Highness therefore desired Mr. Caldecott to make an official proposal, through the Resident, Colonel Fraser, for the construction of an Observatory at Trevandrum. The measure was duly proposed, and it having been readily sanctioned by the Maha Rajah, Mr. Caldecott was appointed His Highness' astronomer.

The Observatory was built under the superintendence of Lieutenant (now Colonel) Horsley, of the Madras Engineers, and Mr. Caldecott, having placed his private astronomical instruments at the disposal of the Sircar, and having also obtained a few more from England, commenced operations in 1837. Subsequently, many valuable and choice instruments were purchased and the Trevandrum Observatory being thus placed on a fair footing, became a most important institution of the kind in India.

The following abstracts of Mr. J. A. Brown's magnetical observations, while distinctly showing the origin and maintenance of the Trevandrum Observatory, bears strong and impartial testimony to His Highness' qualifications and character, as described above :—

“ The Trevandrum Observatory owed its origin in “ 1836, to the enlightened views of His Highness “ Rama Vurmah, then reigning Rajah of Travancore, “ and to the encouragement given to them by the late “ General Stuart Fraser then representing the British “ Government at Trevandrum.

“ The advantages which might accrue to science by “ the establishment of an Observatory in the most “ southern part of the Indian peninsula were first “ brought to the Rajah's notice by Mr. J. Caldecott, “ then the commercial agent of the Travancore “ Government at the port of Alleppey. His Highness, “ desirous that his country should partake with Euro- “ pean nations in scientific investigations, sanctioned “ the construction of an Observatory, named Mr.

“ Caldecott its director, and gave him power to furnish ^{CHAP.}
“ it with the best instruments to be obtained in VII.
“ Europe.

* * * * *

“ His Highness was celebrated throughout India
“ for his love of learning, for a cultivated mind, great
“ poetical powers, and a thorough knowledge of many
“ languages. His Highness is well known also for his
“ decision of character, and took the whole subject at
“ once under his special protection.”

* * * * *

The virtues of European medicines and the benefits
to be derived from European medical treatment having
been thoroughly appreciated from experience, ever
since the appointment of a Doctor, as medical attend-
ant upon the royal family, this benevolent Maha Rajah
wished that his subjects should also share in its
advantages. He therefore sanctioned the establish-
ment of a charity hospital at Trevandrum, under the
superintendence of the palace physician.

The construction of the Sree Padam palace, during
the former reign, on a plan drawn by a European
Engineer, had impressed His Highness, even when
quite young with a favourable opinion of European
engineering skill. The recent construction of the
Observatory simply confirmed this impression. The
Maha Rajah, desirous of introducing a knowledge of
European engineering art into Travancore, in con-
sultation with the Resident Colonel Fraser, sanctioned
the organisation of an experimental engineering
department, and Lieutenant Horsley was offered, and
accepted, the post of a Visiting Engineer and Superin-
tendent of Irrigation and other important works at
Nanjenaud and Trevandrum.

An irrigation maramuth department was established
at Nanjenaud and a superintendent appointed. A few
companies of pioneers were formed for irrigation works
at Nanjenaud, under the general supervision of the
visiting Engineer Lieutenant Horsley, who began to

CHAP. VII. devote his unremitting attention to the improvement of all the maramuth works in Travancore.

This very able Engineer's literary work "Memoirs of Travancore" written at the request of the Resident, Colonel Fraser, shows his knowledge of the country, and how he exerted himself to be closely acquainted with everything connected with Travancore.

The Maha Rajah commissioned His Highness' Astronomer, Mr. Caldecott, to procure a small printing press, and employ the same in connection with the Observatory; but this gentleman at first introduced lithography, and subsequently, in consultation with the Resident, printing presses were ordered from England and a printing department established. Mr. Sperschneider (the father of the present Dr. Sperschneider of the Nair brigade), was appointed superintendent of the printing department. In the year 1839 the first Anglo-Vernacular Calendar of Travancore (for the Malabar year 1015) was issued from this press.

The maramuth department, for repairing and constructing palaces, pagodas, and similar works, was now reorganised on a larger scale, and a person of experience was appointed, with an adequate salary, as superintendent.

The sudden death of Cunden Menon Peishcar was the subject of general remark. Though he died a natural death from a carbuncle on the back, and though he was attended by the palace physician and the residency doctor, yet the popular voice had it that the Peishcar had fallen a victim to the arts of witchcraft practised against him by some of the devil-worshippers of the south, under the support and instigation of the Peishcar's enemies.

His Highness the Maha Rajah had reasons to be dissatisfied with Dewan Suba Row, and his assistant Cochu Sankara Pillay Peishcar. About this time some serious charges were preferred against these high officials by a number of petitioners. In 1012 M.E.

(1837 A.D.), the Maha Rajah issued orders with the concurrence of the Resident, Colonel Fraser, for the suspension of the Dewan and the Peishcar. The first Judge of the appeal court, Narayanan Kasaven, was dismissed in 1010 M.E. (1835) on certain charges which were pending inquiry before the palace. A commission was now appointed, consisting of two European officers and as many natives, presided over by the then Conservator of Forests, Mr. Munro, a son of the late Resident, Colonel Munro, to inquire into the charges against the accused. After a prolonged inquiry of about two months, the impeachment was found to be unsustainable, and the commission closed their sitting, but the Maha Rajah being dissatisfied, thought it proper not to re-instate the Judge, the Dewan and the Peishcar in their respective offices. After the suspension of Dewan Suba Row and Peishcar Cochu Sankara Pillay, Mr. Runga Row, the then Dewan Peishcar, was authorised to assume the functions of Dewan. Runga Row was the younger brother of the former popular Dewan Vencatta Row, and the father of Rajah Sir T. Madava Row, and being a very active and honest officer of the Sircar, he conducted the administration most satisfactorily.

The Maha Rajah, remembering the good qualities and ability of the ex-Dewan, Vencatta Row, entertained the idea of re-appointing him to the office of Dewan, and in consultation with His Highness' brother, the Elia Rajah, this wise measure was resolved upon. His Highness the Elia Rajah then wrote to Vencatta Row, who expressed his willingness to accept the kind offer. The Maha Rajah then deputed His Highness' faveurite attendant, one Cunjen Thampan of Vycome, to Combaconum, to arrange personally with Vencatta Row regarding his return.

In the next year 1013 (1838 A.D.), Vencatta Row arrived at Trevandrum, and was at once appointed Dewan.

He began to display his characteristic energy in the

CHAP. VII. administration, and his proceedings gave entire satisfaction to His Highness the Maha Rajah. As the new Dewan was progressing in his brilliant career, he had the misfortune to fall out with Captain Douglas, the then Acting Resident. Finding that they could not agree, Vencatta Row tendered his resignation, though much against His Highness' wish, in the month of Meenam 1014 (1839 A.D.), after a career of only twelve months.

Dewan Peishcar Runga Row, having resigned his office, when his brother Vencatta Row was appointed Dewan, there was no fit officer at the time in the Huzzoor establishment to conduct the administration, and consequently, the Maha Rajah, in consultation with the Resident, Captain Douglas, called in the other ex-Dewan Suba Row, in the year 1014 M.E. (1839 A.D.), to resume charge of the administration. His absence of a little more than two years from office, and even the inquiry beforementioned did not seem to weigh upon his mind in the least, and Dewan Suba Row resumed charge of the office in the gayest spirit as if he had been attending the cutcherry all the time.

Though the resignation of Vencatta Row was generally and deeply regretted by the people, yet Suba Row was also not wanting in popularity. Dewan Suba Row kept in his old groove. His administration was marked by great success, and the Maha Rajah considered the arrangements best suited to the times.

In the year 1015 M.E. (1840 A.D.), the Dewan's power was increased and his hands strengthened, for, the heads of the several departments of the Huzzoor cutcherry were now prevented by a royal writ, from corresponding directly with the palace, and the Dewan was made the only officer in the Huzzoor cutcherry competent to issue orders and instructions to the various subordinate officers.

By this time, the Maha Rajah's reputation and renown were spread throughout India, and His Highness' court became the cynosure of attraction.

It was always thronged by men of learning from all parts of India. Sastries from Bengal, Benares, Combaconum, and other places noted for learning, now resorted to the capital of Travancore, partly to take service under so renowned a Maha Rajah, and partly to display their knowledge. A distinguished scholar, by name Sankara Jossiyer, who was one of the principal pundits of the court of His Highness Runjeet Sing, Maha Rajah of Lahore, and who had highly distinguished himself in northern India, was now entertained in the Maha Rajah's service, as the first judge of the appeal court. Native astronomers and astrologers from all parts of India, were also in the Maha Rajah's employment. The Maha Rajah was also a patron of music, and several distinguished musicians from Tanjore, Tinnevelly, Palghaut, Mysore, and Malabar were now taken into the service. Mussulman singers of renown were invited to the court. An East Indian was employed to practise English music. Portable organs, musical boxes of various sizes, and several other musical instruments, were purchased.

Many native medical practitioners of note visited the Maha Rajah's court. A Huckeem of some note from Delhi had been in the court for some time, and the renowned Huckeem of Tinnevelly, Madar Hoossein, Tahsildar's son Hayathally Khan, was employed, and that old man is still in the service.

A number of native boxers from Travancore and other parts of Malabar skilled in the art of fencing, single combat, sword, stick, and other exercises, were entertained for the amusement of the court. To witness the mode of champion-fighting in other countries, the Maha Rajah got from the court of Mysore a few sets of trained athletes called mullaga jetties, who fight in single combat, till the combatants' bodies are bathed in blood. The Maha Rajah's curiosity was very peculiar, as His Highness used to take a great interest in seeing all kinds of wonderful feats

CHAP. and rarities. His Highness, who had already seen
VII. specimens of nearly all the European nations, now wished to see a Chinese, of whose skill in arts and manufactures His Highness had heard a good deal. Two Chinese jugglers were brought and were for a long time attached to the palace. As they had a very funny way of taking their meals by means of two small sticks, the Maha Rajah used to see them fed at the palace in his presence. They remained in the palace for a long time, and afterwards were allowed to return to their native land loaded with presents.

Arabs, Negroes, Turks, Malays, Japanese, Nepaulese, and people of almost every nationality of India were brought to Trevandrum one by one at different times, to satisfy His Highness' curiosity. A set of pyalwans (Mussulman champions) from Hyderabad who perform wonderful feats and exhibit extraordinary powers of muscle, were entertained at the court for some time. The performances exhibited by these men would be considered exaggerated, even if correctly related. One of them, a young man of about thirty years of age, with a strong-built body, used to lie on his back and allow a thick granite stone slab to be placed on his breast, and have the same split into pieces by pounding it with a thick iron pestle. He used to throw large iron cannon balls into the air and receive them on his head, back and breast.

In short, there was no science in India which had not a representative of it in the Maha Rajah's court during this period. And this highly satisfactory state of affairs at the court and the proper administration of the country of Travancore excited the admiration of all the neighbouring countries, while the Madras Government expressed their unqualified satisfaction at the young Maha Rajah's conduct of the administration.

A very rich and influential native of Madras, Veeraswamy Naidoo, repaired to Trevandrum, and after having had an interview with the Maha Rajah, resolved



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FOR ILLUSTRATION

GENERAL CULLEN

to stay at His Highness' court. A short time afterwards, the Maha Rajah appointed him as the fourth judge of the appeal court. This man had a good knowledge of horses, and so he was allowed to have the supervision of the Maha Rajah's stables. A richly gilt and splendid car was constructed for the Maha Rajah's conveyance on State occasions under Veeraswamy Naidoo's superintendence, and on his own plan, and this beautiful carriage was admired by all who saw it, and even European Engineers have expressed their surprise at the native workmanship and the ingenuity displayed in its execution.

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In the early part of the year 1016 M.E. (1840 A.D.), General (then Colonel) Cullen was appointed Resident of Travancore; and a young Telugu Brahman by name Krishna Iyen, afterwards known as Krishna Row followed the Resident to Travancore. This Brahman appears to have been under General Cullen while he was in the Commissariat at Madras. Although he had only a limited knowledge of English, he wrote a good hand, and was a very fast writer and intelligent and active in his habits.

General Cullen was struck with the eloquence, affability and knowledge of the Maha Rajah at their first interview, and as the General was a good scientific scholar, he applauded the Maha Rajah's learning, his poetical taste, as well as His Highness' patronage of the Western sciences and began to co-operate with His Highness in all his scientific improvements.

Krishna Row, was a great favourite of General Cullen, and he now began to be ambitious, and desirous of getting into the Travancore service. Though there was no opening at the time, the Maha Rajah thought it wise to do something for the young Brahman with the view of pleasing the Resident, and accordingly, a new office was created for him in the Huzzoor cutcherry under the denomination of deputy Peishcar on a monthly salary of 300 rupees. His duty was to manage the Devaswam, Ootupurah and

CHAP. Sawyer departments. Matters went on satisfactorily
VII. and harmoniously for some time, but Krishna Row aspiring to a higher position began slowly to work with the view of overthrowing Dewan Suba Row.

The Maha Rajah was naturally very sensitive, and therefore would not submit to the least contradiction, or slight thrown on his authority, from any quarter whatever.

General Cullen, being a little defective in his sense of hearing, the Maha Rajah had to speak in a loud tone during his interview with him. This was not at all agreeable to His Highness. He was rather delicate in constitution, and the strain on His Highness' lungs seemed to injure his health. His interviews with the Resident therefore were not very frequent and when a private meeting was sought, the Maha Rajah often tried to avoid seeing him under some excuse or other.

The Deputy Peishcar, Krishna Row, was the principal person who used to furnish information to the Resident on all matters connected with the Government, and he took this opportunity of prejudicing General Cullen's mind against Dewan Suba Row, intimating that the excuses of the Maha Rajah and his unwillingness to receive visits from the Resident, proceeded from a personal disregard to the Resident ; that the Dewan advised the Maha Rajah not to make himself too friendly with the Resident ; and that His Highness was acting solely under the counsel of Suba Row. Thus the first seeds of misunderstanding were sown in General Cullen's mind, and he being a proud man, and of a somewhat resentful disposition, though kind and affable, as a rule, began to view things in Travancore with a prejudiced eye, and to weigh matters with a biased mind. Decisions on public questions of importance were altered, and objections to every measure proposed and suggested by the Dewan under the authority of the Maha Rajah, became the order of the day. The Resident commenced receiving petitions

from parties concerned in police, revenue, and civil cases pending before the respective officers and tribunals, called for reports and records from the Dewan and the appeal court, and gave final opinions and decision on all questions brought to his notice. This as a matter of course, attracted the attention of grievance-mongers, who used to resort to the residency with their complaints, and thus the Resident's office became virtually a court for hearing, inquiring and settling all questions brought before it, questions affecting the general internal administration of Travancore.

The Resident assumed almost sovereign authority. Every appointment of importance, such as tahsildars, munsiffs, superintendents, &c., were ordered to be made after official communication with the Resident and after obtaining his special sanction. In short, the Dewan's hands were tied up, and he was rendered incompetent to give even an increase of salary to the writers and others in his own office without the special sanction of the Resident.

This extraordinary interference of the Resident irritated the Maha Rajah, and the misunderstanding between His Highness' court and the residency became stronger and stronger. Meanwhile, General Cullen continued representing matters to the Madras Government so as to place the Maha Rajah's administration of the country in an unfavorable light. The Government though reluctant to deal with such questions upon *ex parte* statements, yet naturally placing confidence in the statement of their representative, viewed matters prejudicially to the Maha Rajah.

The Maha Rajah also represented the state of matters to the Madras Government. But it was too late, and the Government did not give to his representation that attention which it deserved.

The Madras Government passed several Minutes wherein unfavourable opinions were recorded regarding Travancore affairs at this period, and these

CHAP. VII. opinions were endorsed by even the Honorable Court of Directors.

The Deputy Peishcar, Krishna Row, who was anxiously waiting to obtain the coveted office of Dewan ever since he set foot in Travancore, now thought that the time for accomplishing his object had arrived, and he began to use his influence with re-doubled vigour.

The people of Travancore, both officials and non-officials, who were quick in foreseeing things, anticipated the ultimate fate of Dewan Suba Row, and the advancement of the Deputy Peishcar Krishna Row. Krishna Row became the head of a strong party, and thus arose two factions in Travancore. Suba Row's influence gradually weakened, and he became simply the nominal Dewan. Matters continued thus for some time. The Dewan now found the necessity of withdrawing from the conflict, and the Maha Rajah was constrained to accept his resignation. He was allowed to retire on a monthly pension of 500 rupees. After the retirement of Suba Row, Krishna Row was promoted to the post of Head Dewan Peishcar, and was put in charge of the administration in 1017 M.E. (1842 A.D.) Thus did this protege of the Resident attain the object of his desire.

The Maha Rajah had become disheartened ever since he felt his authority interfered with by the Resident, and the administration of the State unfavourably commented on by the Madras Government.

This state of things hurt the Maha Rajah's feelings considerably, and one day His Highness calling in his father and his brother the Elia Rajah (heir apparent), observed to them that the Madras Government appeared to be solely guided by the partial reports of General Cullen, and were thus doing great injustice to His Highness. He said that it was surprising that that Government should pretend to evince more interest in the welfare and prosperity of Travancore, than the Maha Rajah himself who was the owner and the sovereign of the country, while the Honorable

East India Company was only an ally of His Highness; that the present conduct of the Madras Government and of their representative towards His Highness and General Cullen's constant interference with the internal administration of the kingdom, would seem to imply just the contrary; that the Maha Rajah had at present, in his court, well informed persons from many parts of the Company's Indian territories, and also from the native kingdoms of Mysore, Tanjore, Hyderabad, Cochin, &c., from whom His Highness had learnt that those countries were not better ruled than Travancore; that the Maha Rajah's rule in the earlier part of his reign had been highly approved of, not only by the Madras Government but also by the Government of India; that it was highly mortifying to find that fault had been now found with His Highness' rule after a career of about twelve years, and after His Highness had become experienced in the art of Government, and that if the destinies of Travancore were to remain in the hands of a Telugu Brahman (referring to Krishna Row), the Maha Rajah would rather relinquish his connection with the kingdom, than be subjected to such humiliations. After these observations His Highness produced a long address which he had prepared to be forwarded to the Supreme Government, and handed it over to his brother. This letter was strongly worded, and His Highness the Elia Rajah as well as his father were quite alarmed at the Maha Rajah's determination. They prayed His Highness to postpone his proceedings for further consideration and soothed His Highness' troubled mind. Subsequently, Her Highness Parwathi Rance, His Highness' aunt, the ex-Dewan Suba Row, and several trusted officials and courtiers, waited upon the Maha Rajah, and requested His Highness to refrain from writing either to the Government of Madras or to that of India, against General Cullen and his protege, Krishna Row. Though the Maha Rajah yielded to the earnest solicitations of His brother, father, tutor and officers, still he was so much offended, as to

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declare that His Highness would not retain Krishna Row in the service, but would send him away even at the expense of the country.

The Maha Rajah informed the Madras Government that His Highness had no confidence in the head Dewan Peishcar in charge, and that he would not be confirmed in the Dewan's office.

As there was no fit person in office whom the Maha Rajah could select for the office of prime minister, His Highness sent for the old ex-Dewan Vencatta Row, commonly known by the name of Reddy Row, who had come to Travancore along with Colonel Munro, and who was Dewan during the reign of Her Highness Parwathi Ranee. Reddy Row responded to the call and was appointed Dewan in the Malabar year 1018 (1843 A.D.). The head Dewan Peishcar was however allowed to remain in office, but was only in charge of certain departments of the Huzzoor. This was done at the earnest solicitation of the Maha Rajah's brother (the heir apparent), and His Highness' father, who feared an open rupture with General Cullen.

The Dewan Reddy Row, though nearly forgotten in the country from his long absence and from the material changes it had undergone during a period of above twenty years, began a career quite different from that of his predecessor Suba Row. No sooner had he once more come into office, than a host of relatives and followers surrounded him, and ere long two of his sons were employed in the Huzzoor cutcherry.

The head Dewan Peishcar, Krishna Row, and the Dewan Reddy Row could not agree, and the Huzzoor cutcherry became again the scene of divided partisanship. The Dewan had the support of the Maha Rajah, while Krishna Row was backed by General Cullen, who induced the Madras Government to believe that Krishna Row was the only honest and able officer in the Travancore service, and who had the welfare of the country at heart. A few months previous to the appointment of Dewan Reddy Row, the two

ex-Dewan Peishcars (both native Nairs of Travancore) were taken back into the service. One of them Kasava Pillay, was employed in the Huzzoor and the other, Cochu Sankara Pillay was appointed palace Peishcar. These men had great experience in the service, both of them having risen gradually from the lowest grade to the high post of Dewan Peishcar. The appointment of a palace Peishcar was objected to by General Cullen, on the ground of its being a new office; but His Highness observed that the Resident need not extend his interference with the Maha Rajah's domestic affairs.

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The proceedings of Krishna Row as head Dewan Peishcar were anything but satisfactory to His Highness. He always sought for an opportunity to make himself obnoxious to the Maha Rajah. Finding that the existence of Krishna Row in office was an obstacle to the Dewan in carrying on his business and that his party was growing powerful day by day, the Maha Rajah was determined to remove him from the service, and with all the support that General Cullen could give him, His Highness' resolution prevailed, the Madras Government agreed with His Highness and allowed him to act according to His Highness' own views in the matter.

In the commencement of the year 1019 M.E. (1843 A.D.), six months after the appointment of Dewan Reddy Row, head Dewan Peishcar Krishna Row was dismissed from the service, and as the Maha Rajah prohibited his remaining at Trevandrum, the fallen Statesman was obliged to take up his residence at Quilon.

General Cullen considered these proceedings of the Maha Rajah as a slight offered to him, and under this impression, began to work for the expulsion of the Maha Rajah's tutor, the ex-Dewan Suba Row, from Travancore. A good deal of correspondence passed between the Maha Rajah and the Resident, as well as the Madras Government, and at last, Suba Row's

CHAP. removal from Travancore was insisted upon by the
VII. Madras Government, and the Maha Rajah yielded to the decision of the paramount power.

After some time, the Maha Rajah succeeded in recalling Suba Row to his capital from Tanjore, where he had proceeded in obedience to the orders of the Madras Government. But the Maha Rajah was greatly affected by the decision of Government which he looked upon as unnecessarily severe. The Maha Rajah thought that His Highness' authority and power in his own country had been set at nought. From this time His Highness became indifferent regarding the administration of the country and was dejected in mind. His health began to fail and a complaint which added to the uneasiness of his mind, began to prey upon His Highness' delicate constitution.

Being a learned monarch, His Highness now began to devote his time more to religious devotions than to anything else, and spent his time mostly in prayer, ablutions, and in attending to the worship of the great pagoda at Trevandrum.

The Maha Rajah began to fulfil his vows by devoting large sums of money to His Highness' household deity Padmanabha Swamy, ever since the commencement of his ailments. On days when His Highness went to offer or fulfil the vows, he used to fast and abstain from taking his usual food and from receiving visits from any one; so much so, that His Highness even denied an audience to his nearest relatives. Hence, the Dewan could not find time for submitting his reports as usual, nay, he could hardly get admittance into the royal presence more than once in a month.

In every month, several days were devoted for the fulfilment of the vows at the pagoda, and on each occasion a large sum of money was given to the shrine. On one occasion, the amount was one lac of Surat rupees, which was heaped in front of the idol of Sree Padmanabha Swamy, and the Maha Rajah took the

numerous bags containing the rupees and poured the contents into the silver vessels which were kept there for the purpose. This work engaged His Highness about an hour, and he had the determination of mind to go through the labour even in his delicate state of health.

During this period, money was apparently considered by the Maha Rajah as dust, and the palace expenditure became most extravagant and lavish. Purchases of sundry articles, such as silks, velvets, kincobs, neeralum (gold cloth) and other descriptions of cloth, alone absorbed an annual sum of about three lacs of rupees : all valuable jewels brought for sale were at once purchased, and made over to the pagoda as votive offerings to the deity.

Costly buildings were constructed, such as the Karanay stone bridge attached to the old palace, &c.

There was a total discontinuance of interviews with the Resident, General Cullen, against whom the hatred of the Maha Rajah seemed to increase day by day, so much so, that his servants were afraid to utter the Resident's name in the Maha Rajah's presence. His Highness would, in conversation with his attendants, when alluding to the Resident, speak of him as "Shuvatha" in Sanscrit, "Panddarah" in Mahratta, and "Wallah" in Malayalim.

Latterly, the Maha Rajah would not see or receive visits from any European gentlemen, and even His Highness' physician could not pay his visits to the ailing Maha Rajah, who totally refused to attend to any advice from the doctor or to allow himself to be treated by him.

During this interval, Lord Hay, the son of the Marquis of Tweedale, the then Governor of Madras, came to Trevandrum, and it was with the greatest difficulty and in deference to the entreaties of the Elia Rajah and His Highness' father, that the Maha Rajah was persuaded to see that nobleman.

CHAP.
VII. In the middle of the Malabar year 1019 (1844 A.D.), the Maha Rajah proceeded to south Travancore, with the express purpose of performing certain religious ceremonies and to worship in the renowned pagodas of Sucheendram and Cape Comorin and other shrines of note. This trip was attended with a very large amount of expenditure for the whole Huzzoor and palace establishments had to follow the royal procession. Even on this occssion, the Maha Rajah abstained from showing himself to the people of Nanjenaud as is usual, for His Highness' time was always devoted to religious observances. Nanjenaud is considered from time immemorial as the country inhabited by the most loyal subjects of Travancore, and the people of the twelve villages forming Nanjenaud had precedence on all occasions over those of any other part of the country. Every new measure adopted during the former reigns connected with the administration of the kingdom, was first proposed to the people of Nanjenaud, and they had been invariably consulted as they had a voice and vote in the affairs of the kingdom. Consequently, whenever the sovereign visited Nanjenaud, the first thing he used to do was to give an audience to the chiefs of that district. On this occasion, however, the Maha Rajah did not do this, from an apprehension that some of the old loyal chiefs might moot the question of the present state of affairs in the country, and make some remarks regarding the unusual interference of the Resident with the Maha Rajah's sovereign authority, and of His Highness' implicit submission.

After an absence of more than a month, His Highness returned to Trevandrum and resumed his usual devotional exercises. About this time, the Maha Rajah thought it proper to invest an amount of four lacs of rupees in the Government loans ; especially as the reserve fund in the palace treasury was being drained away day by day.

The numerous acts and proceedings of the Maha

Rajah, fully attested His Highness' refined moral principles, and had also shown that the Maha Rajah was a bitter enemy to corruption and immorality. About this time, the career of Dewan Reddy Row gave room to His Highness to suppose that he was too much given up to his dependants and relatives, and that it was through them that the affairs were managed in an unsatisfactory manner.

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At this interval, the Resident, General Cullen, reported to the Madras Government concerning the objectionable measure of the Dewan, in entertaining two of his sons in responsible offices in the Huzzoor cutcherry which was immediately under his charge, and the Government recommended the removal of those officers from their respective posts. The Maha Rajah was only too glad to attend to this advice of the Government.

In the year 1020 M.E. (1845 A.D.), the Dewan proceeded on a circuit to the Northern districts while the Resident was at Balghauty. Reddy Row visited several of the districts north of Quilon, and remained at Paravoor for some time, inquiring into certain charges brought against the tahsildar of that district. While there, the Dewan with all the officers and servants of the Huzzoor cutcherry accepted an invitation from Anantha Rama Iyen, the son of Nunjappiah, the late Dewan of Cochin, who had done some good service to Reddy Row during his former incumbency in the reign of Her Highness Parwathi Ranee.

The Dewan, on this occasion, not only received presents himself from Anantha Rama Iyen, but also allowed his followers, the officers and servants of the Huzzoor cutcherry, do the same. In conducting the inquiry against the tahsildar of Paravoor, great irregularities had been practised by the subordinate officials as well as by the Dewan's private agents, who had followed him thither for the express purpose of enriching themselves. The Dewan's settlement of a

CHAR. boundary dispute with a certain Devaswam in the
VII. north called Nayathottum, was also open to suspicion.

By the time of the Dewan's return to Trevandrum, every detail connected with his visit to Anantha Rama Iyen's house, and his inquiry into the charges against the tahsildar, reached the Maha Rajah's ears. The Resident, General Cullen, too, was in possession of similar facts.

The Maha Rajah refused to give audience to the Dewan after his return, and, a few days afterwards, made the premier to understand that the disagreeable necessity of a public inquiry into his conduct might be avoided by his immediate resignation. Reddy Row wisely accepted the proposal, and sent in his resignation the next day. Upon another occasion, a Dewan Peishcar, a very able and experienced officer, who was in great favour with the Maha Rajah, was dismissed the service on a charge of corruption. The following is an abstract translation of the short royal rescript issued to the Peishcar :—

“ As we had reason to appreciate your ability and long experience on public business during the time you were holding minor appointments, we promoted you to the office of Dewan Peishcar, but, in course of time, you proved yourself to be extraordinarily avaricious like other mean persons, and various evils have resulted, in consequence, we therefore have dismissed you from your present office.”

Soon after Reddy Row's retirement, Sreenevasa Row, the then first Judge of the appeal court, was appointed head Dewan Peishcar, in charge of the administration. This officer was a very honest and quiet man, but had not that administrative tact which characterised many of his predecessors. Being called upon to assume charge of the administration at a time when the ablest Dewan would have found it difficult to manage affairs satisfactorily, he experienced great trouble in coping with the emergency. Reddy Row had brought the administration into a state which

Sreenevasa Row's hand was too weak to rectify. The CHAP.
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 gradually growing illness of the Maha Rajah and his consequent indifference to the affairs of the State, the increasing misunderstanding between the court and the Resident; the general inactivity of the district officials, who had all a firm belief in the speedy return of Krishna Row to office, and above all the financial embarrassments of the country, were evils which Sreenevasa Row found too hard for him to surmount. People knew that his hands were tied and that he had no power to act in any matter for himself. The Resident called for reports on every point connected with the administration, while he was at the same time unable to get a reply from the palace to his references on important matters for months together. Revenue collections fell into arrears. The tobacco revenue, which was then the chief item among other branches, began to suffer owing to the prevalence of smuggling, while the daily expenses in the palace increased on account of ceremonies and other demands. The large sum of money amounting to upwards of thirty-four lacs of Rupees which was the surplus in the treasury during the prosperous administration of Dewan Suba Row, and which had been transferred to the palace treasury on his retirement was all spent in vows and religious ceremonies at the pagodas, and the palace treasury also soon became empty. Thus, the financial difficulty became greater than all the other difficulties with which the acting premier had to deal. The head Dewan Peishcar, Sreenevasa Row, was often found in a pitiful state, especially when the time for paying the monthly subsidy to the Resident's treasury approached.

The allowance to the various establishments had been in arrears, and every day the Huzzoor cutcherry was invaded by crowds of people expecting and requesting payment.

Sreenevasa Row had some good qualities. He was quite amenable to reason. He used to seek advice from able and honest officials of his cutcherry, without

CHAP. VII. regard to their rank and position. He never shrunk from retracing his steps when he found it was necessary to do so. By such a sensible line of conduct Srivenevasa Row was enabled to show improvement in the financial department and in the general administration.

In the next Malabar year 1021 (A.D. 1845), the Maha Rajah wishing a change of air visited Quilon, and this entailed an enormous additional expenditure. Towards the close of the year, to aggravate the already existing difficulties, a great misfortune befell Travancore. An unusually heavy storm burst over the country destroying both life and property to a considerable extent.

The storm and the consequent floods destroyed many of the irrigation works in the south. Numbers of trees, houses, &c., &c., in the north came down and many ryots had their houses washed away. By this event the improvement in the financial condition of the country was considerably retarded.

In this year, the Maha Rajah's father died. This was an irreparable and deeply felt loss to the State. From this date, the Maha Rajah's ailments began to increase. He loved seclusion and solitude, and as his malady increased, his habit became more sedentary. No person had access to His Highness, save his personal attendants, of whom one man waited at a suitable place to attend when summoned. Even the physician attached to the Maha Rajah could not get any correct information regarding the state of His Highness' health. His Highness' brother, the Elia Rajah, who had a good knowledge of the medical science was his only medical attendant. Even the Elia Rajah himself could not go to see his brother without special permission. There were several native practitioners of some note and ability at hand, but they were of no use, as His Highness refused to admit any of them to the royal presence. The Maha Rajah at this time was unable even to walk a few paces.

His Highness one day called his brother the Elia Rajah, and observed that Sreenevasa Row, being a quiet man, would not be able to cope with the opposition of the Resident, General Cullen, and do his duties satisfactorily, and as His Highness had already permitted Krishna Row to return to Trevandrum and reside there, His Highness intended giving him a fresh trial, as he wished to see what effect that measure would produce in General Cullen's mind. His Highness the Elia Rajah entirely agreed with the views of the Maha Rajah, and the next day, very early in the morning, when the Maha Rajah went to bathe in the tank, His Highness sitting there, called the palace Rayasom (writer), and dictated a Neet (commission) of appointment to Krishna Row as Dewan Peishcar. After this, Krishna Row was summoned to the royal presence. Not knowing for what purpose he was so suddenly called to the palace, Krishna Row was frightened, but no sooner was he ushered into the presence of the Maha Rajah, than His Highness in a very unusual way, smiled and said, "Here, Krishna Row accept your re-appointment into my service. I forgive and forget all what is past; from this day you are my man and not General Cullen's. Go, work honestly for the advancement of my country and render every possible assistance to Sreenevasa Row."

Krishna Row became speechless, shed tears copiously, and all that he could say in his own Telugu tongue was, "Maha Rajah! Maha Rajah! I am your Highness' slave and waiting boy, protect me, protect me" This was the last commission of appointment signed by the Maha Rajah, and it took place on the 26th Vrichigum 1022 M.E. (10th December 1846).

Though the Maha Rajah now began to sink day by day, he kept this fact concealed from the notice of every one of his attendants, nor did he confine himself to his bed-chamber for any number of days. On the morning of the 12th Dhanu 1022 M.E. (25th December 1846,) His Highness did not go to his bathroom as

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VII. usual, neither did he stir out of his bed till 9 P.M. This created some alarm, and the servants soon communicated the matter to His Highness the Elia Rajah, but His Highness would not venture to enter the chamber without being called in by his brother : such was the fear, even the heir apparent and immediate brother, had of the Maha Rajah. The alarm reached Her Highness Parwathi Rance, the Maha Rajah's aunt, and Her Highness together with His Highness' brother-in-law hastened to the palace and all the three stood near the door. But none attempted either to enter or to rouse the slumbering Maha Rajah. At about 10 A.M., the Maha Rajah hearing a whisper at the door, and recognizing the voice of His Highness' aunt whom His Highness held in great regard, called out to the attendants, and inquired of them if Her Highness was there and what the time was. There were only two attendants privileged to enter into the bed-chamber, and one of whom informed the Maha Rajah that it was then 10 o'clock and that the Princess and the Elia Rajah were there, in consequence of the Maha Rajah's not stirring out of bed even at such a late hour. The Maha Rajah got up, but so weak had he become that his legs failed to support him and when about to fall back, the attendant approached to help him. His Highness turning, stared at his face, holding the wall by one of his hands, and said "what ! are you trying to trifle with me ? I am not going to fall, neither am I in such a state of health." So saying, the Maha Rajah boldly walked out and seeing his sorrow-stricken relatives, asked Her Highness the Rance with a respectful smile :— "*Ammachee auvertha kalinho ?*" i.e., "mother, have you taken your breakfast ?" Turning to the Elia Rajah, His Highness observed that he had slept a little longer than usual, and then gave them leave to depart. Her Highness wished that they should stay there till His Highness took his breakfast. His Highness, though fast sinking, endeavoured to conceal his weakness, but being unable to reach the bathing place, he said that he

would perform his ablutions in one of the adjoining rooms, and while seated there His Highness sent for the head cook and gave him instructions to prepare a very light meal which was served at about 11 o'clock, but His Highness partook of it very sparingly, and then again bidding the sad group of relations adieu, re-entered the chamber and laid himself on the bed.

His Highness the Elia Rajah returned to his palace, and sent for the palace doctor, and told him in what state his royal brother was. The doctor wished for an interview with the sovereign, but this was found impracticable. Dewan Peisbear Krishna Row was ordered by His Highness to intimate at once to General Cullen the state of His Highness' health. During the course of the day, the Elia Rajah went more than ten times to the palace, but did not venture to enter the room or enquire personally how his brother was, for fear of disturbing him. Towards evening, however, His Highness went again to the palace, when taking courage, he approached the door and found the Maha Rajah still lying on his bed, in the same state as in the morning. They exchanged a few words, after which the Maha Rajah permitted his brother to retire. His Highness left after ordering the attendants to inform him of any change in the state of the Maha Rajah.

At about 10 p.m., the Maha Rajah called out to his attendants and ordered a little liquid food, which, being brought, His Highness sipped a little of it and then told them to leave the room. He reclined as usual on his bed, and apparently went to sleep. Towards morning, at about 3 o'clock one of the attendants looking in observed that the Maha Rajah lay in his bed motionless and breathless. He called out to another attendant who was also watching there. They both attentively looked from the door, and then slowly entered and went close to the bed side, but alas! there were no symptoms of life discernible. One of them ran to His Highness the Elia Rajah's palace and

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gave the alarm, when the heir apparent got up from his bed and ran to the palace, loudly lamenting the loss of his brother. But all had been over some few hours before. Even the attendants knew nothing as to the real state in which the sovereign was.

The scene at the palace on the occasion defies description. His Highness the Elia Rajah lamented and cried like a child, while Her Highness the Ranee, who had also hastened to the palace at once, tore her hair and wept most bitterly. Her Highness was followed by all the other members of the royal family. Before day-break, the palace was thronged and filled by people. Officials, as well as all the immediate attendants at the palace, the nobles and other principal men of the town of Trevandrum, crowded in. Nothing but cries and lamentations could be heard in the palace until 7 A. M., when the funeral procession started. The four main streets of the fort were crowded by the mourning population, who followed with heart-rending cries and sorrowful ejaculations. His Highness the Elia Rajah walked bare-headed and barefooted, close to the State conveyance wherein the deceased Maha Rajah's remains were placed. All the other male members of the royal family walked behind the heir apparent.

Deep mourning was observed voluntarily by every class of people. The bazaars were all shut, so were the gates of all the houses wherein weeping and cries could alone be heard. Groups of females, with dishevelled hair, were seen at different places in the streets and gardens, beating their bosoms and heads with loud cries of grief and lamentations.

His Highness the Elia Rajah, the chief mourner, performed all the ceremonies, and undertook to perform the daily ceremonies called "Deekshah" for one year; during which period, His Highness was to abstain from all luxurious living and lead the life of a hermit in grief and mourning in accordance with the customs of the Hindus.

Thus ended the worthy career of this Maha Rajah in the thirty-fourth year of his age and in the eighteenth year of his glorious reign. Compared with the majority of his predecessors His Highness had highly distinguished himself and eclipsed many of his contemporaries in India, and from whom his subjects and dependants had always reason to expect reforms and other benefits.

Besides the numerous rules and regulations introduced by this lamented sovereign for the proper government of the country, as described above, there were several useful enactments, amply illustrating the state of civilization to which Travancore had been brought under this reign.

It was during His Highness' reign that the long established custom of disgracing female criminals, by shaving their heads and afterwards banishing them from Travancore with ignominy, was abolished.

The ghee ordeal at the pagoda at Sucheendram, whereby Numboory Brahmans were required to immerse the fingers of their right hand in boiling ghee, to prove their innocence when charged with adultery, was prohibited.

A revenue law, for remitting one-fourth of the tax on cocoanut and other trees planted and reared by ryots, was introduced in order to encourage agricultural pursuits.

The Maha Rajah continued to encourage and patronize science and education even to his latter days. This will be evident from His Highness' handsome contribution to the Rev. Mr. Bailey's Malayalam and English Dictionary, for the publication of which the Maha Rajah had rendered considerable pecuniary assistance.

It may not be out of place to insert here a copy of Mr. Bailey's acknowledgment, prefixed to his work, as corroboration of this fact.

CHAP. "To
VII. " HIS HIGHNESS

The Rajah of Travancore.

"SIR,

"I beg to acknowledge my grateful obligations to Your Highness, not only for permitting me to dedicate the following work to you, and thus to present it to the public under the auspices of so great a name, but also for the very liberal aid you have so kindly offered me and the deep interest you have taken in the work. It exhibits another instance of Your Highness' readiness to encourage and patronize general education and the promotion of literature among your subjects.

"The great difficulty and labour attending such an undertaking, and the attention which I have been necessarily obliged to pay to my other important duties, have contributed to retard the publication of the work much longer than I anticipated.

"That the life of Your Highness may be long spared, and that you may be permitted to witness the beneficial results of the efforts now made to promote good and sound education in this country, based on the best principles is the sincere wish of

Your Highness' most obliged,

Humble servant,

(Signed) B. BAILEY.

COTTAYAM, }
July 1846. }

Mr. Peet's Malayalam Grammar was also published under the auspices of His Highness. Many of the works composed by this royal author are now forgotten, though there are numerous hymns and songs at present well known all over India.





LITHOGR. BY ROGERS BROTHERS

FOR HESSON & HIGGINBOTHAM.

MARTHANQA VURMAH MAHA RAJAH
1022-1036 M.F. (1867-1861 A.D.)



CHAPTER VIII.

SREE PADMANABHA DASA VANJI PALA MARTHANDA VURMAH
KULASKHARA KEREETAPATHI BHAGHEODAYA RAMA RAJAH
MUNNAY SULTAN MAHARAJ RAJAH BAHDUR SHAMSHEER
JUNG MAHA RAJAH OF TRAVANCORE.

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HIIS sovereign was born in the month of Chingam 990 M.E. (August 1814 A.D.) and was thirty-two years of age when he was destined to assume his ancestral musnud. The formal installation of the Maha Rajah took place on the 16th Koombhabh 1022 (26th February 1847).

Having been educated along with his late brother, His Highness Marthanda Vurmah Maha Rajah, was as a good a scholar in the English, Sanscrit, Hindustani, Mahratta, Malayalam and Tamil languages as the demised sovereign.

The only difference between the two was in poetical talents, and musical accomplishments, in which His Highness Marthanda Vurmah Maha Rajah was inferior to his lamented brother. But in politics he excelled, and he had a peculiar tact, whereby he used to accomplish what he had in view.

It appears from Colonel Welsh's testimony, that this Maha Rajah, when a youth, was very lively and sociable in European company. These genial qualities seemed to be developed as he advanced in age. The Europeans, resident in Travancore were more intimate and friendly with this Prince, than with his brother the reigning Maha Rajah. Both brothers lived together up to the time of the formal installation of the

CHAP. elder Prince in 1829, and then they occupied separate
VIII. residences.

In his daily intercourse with the European gentry in Trevandrum, His Highness' defective pronunciation of English, which was a great drawback in those brought up under Dewan Suba Row's system of tuition, was often the subject of remark, as observed by Colonel Welsh; and consequently this Prince resolved upon improving himself in this respect. Being very friendly with the Resident and also with the residency Surgeon, Dr. Brown, His Highness prevailed upon the latter to aid him in acquiring a correct accent and to direct his English studies generally. Dr. Brown, who was of a very obliging disposition, gladly acceded to the wishes of His Highness, and contributed much to the Prince's proficiency in the English language. A few months later, His Highness felt an inclination to study the Doctor's own profession, and seeing the intelligence and aptitude of the Prince, that gentleman most willingly undertook to teach the science of medicine to this knowledge-seeking scion of royalty; and in the course of this study, the cognate branches of Chemistry and Anatomy were also taught.

Though Dr. Brown was obliged to leave India before completing his praiseworthy labours to make this Prince master of the sciences which he was so anxious to learn, still His Highness persevered in a course of self-study by procuring and reading the works of eminent authors.

As His Highness had not the least expectation of being ever called to reign over Travancore in succession to his brother, who was his senior only by one year and a half, his object was to make himself useful to his countrymen by popular undertakings and at the same time to devote his leisure hours to the pursuit of science and literature. Mr. Caldecott, the Sircar Astronomer, also rendered some assistance to His Highness in acquiring a tolerably correct knowledge

of Chemistry, and that gentleman furnished him with the necessary apparatus and chemicals.

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At first, His Highness procured from the Durbar physician's dispensary a small supply of medicines, with which he commenced treating ordinary cases within the circle of his own attendants and their families; and subsequently supplies of almost all description of medicines were procured from Messrs. Bruce and Co. (now Barrie and Co.,) of Madras and also from druggists at Bombay. At this time, His Highness opened a correspondence with Madras and Bombay and became a constituent of almost all the principal business-houses in those presidencies. Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co. were appointed His Highness' Agents at Madras, and at a later period, when His Highness began to order articles direct from England, Messrs. J. Cockburn and Co. were selected in London for the agency, in private transactions. Every new medicine discovered and advertised in the newspapers was procured, and in the course of a few years a large room, which had been converted into a private dispensary, being found insufficient, a separate building was constructed on an enlarged scale to provide the necessary accommodation. Persons were selected from among His Highness' own attendants and trained by him to perform the duties of dressers. The arrangements of the dispensary were so complete, that the Durbar physician himself was struck with the taste, method, and neatness displayed, and the dispensary was the admiration of all the Europeans who visited it.

His Highness used to spend the greatest part of his leisure hours there, in treating cases himself, and latterly, this private dispensary became a regular hospital. The Hindu portion of the patients preferred this institution to the Sircar's charity hospital, for in it the patients were not only treated, fed and clothed, but were invariably favoured with presents of some sort when they were discharged. The Numboory Brahmans, who would not even touch English medi-

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cines, under the idea that most of the liquid substances contained spirits, began to take them freely from His Highness' dispensary. His Highness would explain to them the good effects of European medicines and how speedily diseases could be cured by their means. Several of the Hindu gentry came from great distances, not only for the cure of ailments, but also for the purpose of having an opportunity of seeing His Highness while they are under treatment. Trevandrum is seldom without a religious ceremony of some kind being performed there, and the noted men among Numboory Brahmans who constantly resorted to the place, had spread throughout Malabar, among their community, reports regarding His Highness' medical knowledge and the virtues and efficacy of European medicines. During the Murajapom, and other remarkable ceremonial occasions, His Highness' dispensary was the principal, nay, the only resort of Numboory Brahmans for medical aid. A learned Gouda Brahman Sastri, who came from Benares, and who was suffering from chronic dyspepsia and its attendant colic pains, which had proved obstinate against all kinds of treatment, the poor patient being scarcely able to retain a mouthful of food even for a few minutes, was successfully treated and restored to health by His Highness in the course of three months. On this occasion, His Highness' brother, the then Maha Rajah, was highly pleased and expressed his great surprise at the ability his brother displayed in the cure of diseases. On another occasion, the Maha Rajah himself was cured of an attack of diarrhoea, which baffled the doctors as well as the native Vydhians of the time.

His Highness also performed minor surgical operations, such as opening boils and tumours, cutting away proud flesh, &c., with considerable dexterity. His Highness was well up in vaccinating, and most of the palace attendants were vaccinated with his own hands.

Besides the dispensary, His Highness had a laboratory wherein all the various apparatus and che-

micals which were purchased through Mr. Caldecott were preserved, together with stills of various sizes, glass retorts, boilers, evaporating dishes, crucibles of different kinds, and many other things necessary for conducting chemical experiments. There were a powerful electric machine, a galvanic battery, an air-pump, an ice-making machine, Daguerreotyping apparatus and several smaller machines for purposes of amusements, as well as experiments. Several kinds of optical instruments, such as stereoscopes of various sorts, telescopes of sizes, opera glasses, were also in the laboratory. All these were admired by the Numboories and other people who had not only never before seen them, but had not an idea of the existence or uses of such wonderful instruments.

His Highness enjoyed a vigorous constitution and his active habits would not permit him to keep himself within doors. He used to drive out almost every evening, and visited his European friends. Frequently, His Highness was found in the evening in some European house, forming the principal figure in a circle of ladies and gentlemen, talking merrily and exchanging jokes and playing familiarly with the children, so that one cannot but call His Highness the merriest and happiest royal personage, socially speaking, amongst his contemporaries.

From infancy, His Highness took a fancy to European styles and fashions, and gradually in all his mode of living he became almost Europeanized. His dress, occupations, furniture, amusements, &c., were all after the European style. A vest, trowsers and coat, with slight changes in the cut, formed his ordinary attire, and rich and profusely laced coats made to order at Calcutta, were His Highness' favourite costumes on grand occasions.

His Highness being very fond of riding, kept many good horses for his personal use, as well as for his numerous favourite attendants, who were privileged to have horses assigned to them from the stables to

CHAP. follow His Highness in his daily rides and on State
VIII. occasions.

In the out-door exercises he regularly took, His Highness was attended by no less than a dozen attendants on horse back, and it was a grand sight to see him daily riding or driving, accompanied by such a number of horsemen and mounted troops. In such movements, the party often halted here and there to join in a picnic entertainment or some other amusements.

One morning, during His Highness' drive to the sea-beach at Sankhu Mukham (Trevandrum), about the year 1013 M.E. (1838 A.D.), he observed a vessel riding at anchor near Valiathoray, about a couple of miles south of the Trevandrum beach bungalow. Looking through a telescope, His Highness described a signal of distress flying from her top-mast. His Highness at once sent on board one of his attendants, who was accompanied by a trooper to ascertain her requirements. The ship was found to be Her Majesty's frigate "Jupiter," bound for Ceylon commanded by Captain Fullerton, and she was conveying Her Majesty's 97th European Regiment under the command of Colonel Campbell from England. The vessel had encountered bad weather after rounding the Cape of Good Hope, and had been detained unusually long on her voyage. The supply of water had run out, and there was not a drop on board since the previous day. His Highness lost no time in ordering a supply for present use at his own expense, and then procured orders from his brother, the then reigning sovereign, to the Dewan, to ship a good supply of water, free of all charges. His Highness accompanied by his father and several others from the palace, went on board the frigate the same day, and met with a hearty reception. The Commander, Captain Fullerton, was about to fire a salute, when the regimental surgeon informed His Highness that the report from the heavy guns would prove injurious to the health of two

of the ladies on board, one being in delicate health, and the other (Major Walter's daughter) suffering from pulmonary disease in an advanced stage. His Highness, very promptly and earnestly requested the Commander to dispense with the honor intended, and it was with difficulty that Captain Fullerton was prevailed upon to accede to the request.

His Highness remained about four hours on board, inspecting every part of the frigate and the heavy pieces of ordnance and their arrangement, as it was the first time he saw a vessel of the kind ; and being a great admirer of the British troops, observed with much interest the arms and accoutrements of the men on board. His Highness, at the same time, kindly procured from shore, fruits, &c., for the soldiers and seamen.

The Commander went on shore to arrange for the shipment of water, and after an interview with the Dewan, it was agreed to commence work from an early hour the next morning, as the surf was very high in the afternoon every day. This arrangement afforded His Highness an opportunity to visit the vessel again the next day, accompanied by Captain Daly, one of the Commandants of the Nair brigade, and the Durbar Physician Dr. Allardice. A few Nair sepoyes were also taken for Colonel Campbell's inspection.

After the usual compliments, His Highness expressed a wish to see the British soldiers at drill, and Colonel Campbell was only too glad to gratify His Highness' curiosity. Forty men were paraded on deck, and His Highness was highly pleased to see them go through their exercises. His Highness then desired Captain Daly to parade his men for the amusement of the officers and others of the frigate, which he did. The officers expressed astonishment at the activity of the movements and the manœuvres of the sepoyes, but the pity was that some of the sepoyes were soon seized with the usual symptoms of sea-sickness. His Highness was greatly touched at the sympathy shown by the

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English soldiers, who, at once, came to the assistance of the sepoys, and raised those who had fallen on deck, and helped them with soda water and other remedies, while the sailors promptly cleaned the decks.

His Highness gave a treat to the soldiers and sailors on this occasion in the shape of fruits, sweets and other refreshments, and wished very much to give them a formal entertainment the next day, but Captain Fullerton could not delay, and His Highness took leave and left the vessel at about dusk, amidst loud cheers from the officers and men.

Colonel Campbell seemed willing to accede to His Highness' request, and would have postponed his departure for a day, but it was said there was some difference between the Colonel and the Commander of the vessel on the question of further delay.

From his youth His Highness took a great delight in native dramatic performances. A group of actors was entertained at his private expense, and the most renowned of the profession in Malabar were invited and enlisted in his private service, so that latterly many of His Highness' servants were theatrical performers.

His Highness' affability and sociableness, benevolence and kindness, as well as his unfailing good temper, were qualities that were the marvel of the people. An instance of his temper and good nature may be mentioned here : His Highness was one day trying a new glass retort made to order in England, to distil essence of rose, and as the process was going on, an attendant (the writer himself), who had the honor of being admitted as a companion and classed among the favoured ones, and who used to superintend the medical stores, was told to raise the retort a little to regulate the spirit lamp ; when he took it up with the aid of a towel, he found it so very hot that he let go his hold, dropping the heated retort, which was shattered to pieces. He was naturally in great terror, but His Highness, instead of displaying the least sign

of anger or displeasure, quietly asked him if he had hurt himself. As regards the retort, His Highness said, he could get hundreds of the kind, but he would feel sorry if his attendant had burnt his fingers, or in any way injured himself.

This period of His Highness' life as Elia Rajah seems to have been the happiest, the merriest and the most pleasurable in his whole career, and consequently, he never wished for a change in his position.

A strong affection for his family was a very peculiar trait in His Highness' character. He looked upon his brother with even filial regard and always wished he would live longer than himself.

On one occasion, three boys attached to the palace, while amusing themselves in one of the cut-houses by burning blue lights, accidentally ignited a quantity of gunpowder kept in the room and burnt themselves very severely. Hearing of this, His Highness had the unfortunate lads brought before him immediately and treated them under his own directions. At the same time, an express messenger was sent for the Durbar physician, who, on his arrival, simply approved of the remedies which had been employed by His Highness. On the doctor observing that he had thought, from the nature of the message, that some member of the royal family was in danger, His Highness replied that as regards human suffering, there was no difference, whether the sufferer was a king or a slave.

From His Highness' European style of living and his predilections for everything European, also from his moving in European society, without the least show of superstition, especially with regard to pollution, such as is displayed by Hindus in general, and his approaching tables where fish and animal food were served, many a European supposed that His Highness would shake off caste restraints altogether, and even a great English Statesman was led to form the idea, that it was not quite improbable that His Highness

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would visit England some day. A little incident which occurred during the time this royal personage was Elia Rajah, serves to illustrate this notion. A Prussian Prince, who came to Trevandrum about this time, paid a visit to His Highness, and on the return visit of His Highness', the Prince being absent from his residence, His Highness left his card there. The Prince appears to have kept that card in his pocket for a long time. After his return to his native land, he went over to England, and when he called on Lord Elphinstone, the late Governor of Bombay, that nobleman being absent from home, the Prince left his card and returned to Prussia, without having an interview with Lord Elphinstone. The card which the Prince left appeared to be that of His Highness the Elia Rajah, and Lord Elphinstone wrote at once a letter of apology to His Highness, saying that he felt really sorry that he was out at the time His Highness kindly called at his residence. This letter, which arrived by the Overland Mail, caused His Highness at first some astonishment; the mystery was however cleared afterwards. This incident gave His Highness an opportunity to commence and maintain a correspondence with Lord Elphinstone. His Highness moreover kept up a friendly intercourse in writing with several gentlemen in England and Scotland, and was enjoying a pleasant and easy life, free from care and turmoil, when he was suddenly called upon to assume the responsibility of governing the kingdom, the aspect of whose affairs afforded the new sovereign afar from cheering prospect.

This Maha Rajah possessed none of the advantages which his deceased brother had at the time of his assumption of sovereign authority. On the contrary, he was destined to face difficulties and disadvantages at the very commencement of his reign. Besides, His Highness was without the assistance of good and experienced counsellors like his late father and other old and able men of the court. The kingdom was then something like a ship without ballast or

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a compass in the midst of a storm, and without having on board an experienced pilot or helmsman. The treasuries, both of the palace as well as of the State, were almost empty, and the financial condition of the kingdom was in utter confusion. Sreenevasa Row, the head Dewan Peishcar in charge of the administration, was of too mild a temperament, and without abilities above mediocrity and with an inability to cope with extraordinary contingencies. He was, in addition to this, in disfavour with General Cullen, the Resident. The salaries of most of the public establishments were considerably in arrears. The revenue was falling off from various causes, the principal of which was that the tobacco revenue was very greatly reduced in consequence of the prevalence of smuggling, and, to crown all, the additional expenditure attendant on the ceremonies connected with the late Maha Rajah's demise was urgently pressing on the Government. The only favourable circumstance was that His Highness had the good fortune to be on friendly terms with General Cullen, from the time of his arrival in Travancore as Resident, and those relations had continued undisturbed. His Highness resolved to inaugurate his reign by giving effect to the principle adopted by his mother Lekshmi Ranee and followed by his aunt Parwathi Ranee, which was, to be guided by the advice and counsel of the British Resident; indeed a better course could not have been adopted at this critical time.

After his formal installation and the performance of all the consequent ceremonies, the Maha Rajah voluntarily suggested to General Cullen the desirableness of making a change in the administration, and proposed to relegate the head Dewan Peishcar Sreenevasa Row to his former post of first Judge of the Appeal Court, and to appoint Dewan Peishcar Krishna Row to act as Dewan, a measure which met with no objection on the part of General Cullen and was carried into effect, with the full approbation of the Madras Government.

Krishna Row entered upon his new office of acting Dewan by concentrating his energies to improve the unhappy condition of affairs, and to do justice to the Maha Rajah's selection of him to that most important post in which he was no mere tyro, as he had once before discharged the duties of Dewan.

Though a protege of General Cullen, Krishna Row acquired in a short time, by his good behaviour, the full confidence of the Maha Rajah, who now determined to render him every support to enable him to repair and restore the shattered condition of the Government; but without replenishing the treasury and meeting emergent demands in the way of arrears of salary, &c. Krishna Row, could not retrieve the fortunes of the fallen State with all his extraordinary activity and exertions.

Soon after his appointment, Dewan Krishna Row submitted to His Highness a full and detailed report on the financial position of the State, with exhaustive statements showing that there was only a sum of eighty thousand Rupees in cash in the treasury; that the pay of every establishment was due from the commencement of the year, *i.e.*, for the previous eight months; that the contractors of Jaffna and Tinnevelly tobacco, as well as the other merchants who supplied various articles to the Sircar had not been paid for months together; that similarly, all the Devaswams and other charitable institutions had been left unpaid, and that these dues amounted to nearly six lacs of Rupees, while the collection of revenue had fallen in arrears to the extent of a like sum or even more.

On receipt of this report, the Maha Rajah was not a little perplexed and devoted himself to the hard task of setting right the prevailing disorganisation, and the Dewan soothed His Highness' troubled mind with assurances that he would use all his exertions in collecting the arrears of revenue and paying the State dues.

Officers of ability and experience were promoted



DEWAN KRISHNA ROW

LITHOGRAPHS BY BOSS BROTHERS

FOR MESSRS HIGGINS & THOMAS LTD

and placed at the head of the several departments, and one of these, Dewan Peishcar Kasava Pillay, an official of long service and tried ability, was appointed head Dewan Peishcar, and was made the immediate assistant to the Acting Dewan, who had now an efficient staff to assist him in the work of administration.

During this reign, Lord Gifford, a son of the then Madras Governor, the Marquis of Tweedale, paid a visit to Travancore and the Maha Rajah received him with due honors. This young nobleman, accompanied by Major Shirreff, the commandant of the Nair brigade, and a select party of gentlemen, for some time enjoyed the sport of elephant shooting on the Neduvangaud Hills.

In the first year of Dewan Krishna Row's accession to office, he attended to the due performance of all the ceremonies connected with the demise of the late Maha Rajah, to the satisfaction of the royal family and of the people of Travancore generally, and this secured him a good name and earned for him the additional satisfaction of the Maha Rajah's good will.

In 1023 M.E. (1847 A.D.), the deceased Maha Rajah's anniversary ceremonies had to be performed, and the reigning Prince was pleased with the manner in which this obligation was fulfilled.

It was after this ceremony that the Maha Rajah had sufficient time at his command, to engage himself actively in administrative affairs.

Meanwhile, Krishna Row had the misfortune to incur an amount of odium among many of the European residents of Travancore. As he had the warm support of General Cullen, he paid little or no attention to the European gentlemen in the Travancore service or to other Europeans, resident in the country.

One of his weaknesses was a slight tendency towards arbitrary proceedings, which he found at times unable to repress in the discharge of his functions. He had heard a good deal about the Dalawah Valu Thamby

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and Colonel Munro, who had introduced reforms in old times by the use of the rattan and whip, but he does not seem to have thought that times and circumstances were altered. Unmindful of this, he kept a pair of half-hunters in his office and used them freely in correcting irregularities and abuses, without any formal process, so that while he was engaged in checking abuses, his own acts acquired a name which gave his enemies a handle to hold him up to public reproach.

The then editor of the *Madras Athenaeum*, Mr. Meade, the famous writer of the "Centenary of Plassey" in the *Friend of India*, was furnished with particulars of these summary proceedings by certain gentlemen in Travancore, and his mind was prejudiced against Krishna Row's administration.

At this juncture, a correspondent under the designation of "Not the last" began to publish in the *Athenaeum* unfavourable accounts of the Dewan, depicting him in the worst colours possible, and dragging General Cullen also into unpleasant notoriety.

Torture, in its vilest forms, was stated to have been practised immediately under the Dewan's eye and by the police, throughout the country. Every little irregularity was magnified and presented in a highly exaggerated form.

General Cullen, though he keenly felt these attacks, was too proud to descend to any refutation, and was content to treat them invariably with silent contempt.

These publications continued thus unnoticed for a year or more, and the result was, that, the general impression became unfavourable towards the Travancore administration, and people believed that there was not a worse ruled kingdom in India than Travancore. General Cullen did all in his power to keep the Madras Government acquainted with the facts, but, nevertheless, that Government was not quite free from an uneasy feeling as to the real state of things. This bad

impression was shared by the Government of India, as will be shown hereafter.

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The Maha Rajah foresaw the evil which would result from such unchallenged statements, which he perused with the greatest concern, and the Dewan was often summoned to the royal presence, and warned to take every precaution not to give just cause for complaint, and at the same time to use every exertion to remove any evil which might be in existence. The Maha Rajah used to read every paper and make notes of whatever concerned Travancore. One of the palace writers was ordered to have all the articles bearing on the affairs of the country copied in a book in their entirety, after their perusal by the Maha Rajah.

His Highness also deputed private emissaries to the local districts to see if torture or other acts of oppression were practised by the police, and Dewan Krishna Row on the other hand was not idle. He instituted thorough enquiries and made examples of a few whose misconduct was discovered, but this course, instead of being viewed favourably, was taken as corroborative of the existence of oppression and arbitrary practices as urged by "Not the last," and the articles in the *Athenæum* began to appear with redoubled force and vehemence.

The Maha Rajah used to take a great interest in the English education of His Highness' nephews, of whom there were four Princes, the eldest of whom laboring under unsoundness of mind, and the third not having a sharp understanding, the training of His Highness' second nephew, the present Maha Rajah, and that of his younger brother, His Highness the present First Prince, was conducted with great attention and care.

The late Dewan Suba Row, as a privileged instructor of the royal family, commenced teaching the Princes English, and his sons afterwards undertook this duty. But subsequently, one Sankara Menon, a scholar of the Cottayam College was appointed as tutor. The

CHAP. present Maha Rajah, the then first Prince, made very satisfactory progress during the five years he was under the tuition of Sankara Menon, and wrote excellent letters and began to distinguish himself in conversation with Englishmen. His Highness' brother too made considerable progress under the same tutor and began to write short essays.

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In the month of Makaram 1024 M.E. (January 1839 A.D.), the Maha Rajah proceeded to Attingal, near Anjengo, for the annual worship in the pagoda there, and agreeably to previous arrangements the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's Steamer "Achilles" anchored off the Anjengo roads, on a certain morning during the Maha Rajah's stay at Attingal. This was done simply to gratify His Highness' curiosity as he was most anxious to see a steam vessel. On the anchoring of the steamer, the beach at Anjengo was crowded with people, as they had never before seen a steamer so close to the land, nor had they a correct idea of the agency by which such vessels were moved without sails. Tents were pitched for His Highness and the Dewan, and at about noon, on the said day, the Maha Rajah proceeded to Anjengo, accompanied by the Dewan and all the principal officers of the State. A military detachment, under command of Captain Daly, also lined the beach to receive His Highness.

Several large and good sea-boats were prepared for conveying the royal procession on board. The Maha

Rajah embarked in a very commodious boat expressly prepared by the British authorities at Anjengo, and his followers were all conveyed comfortably in the others. The boat prepared for the Dewan Krishna Row, though a good and long one, was not flat bottomed, and when he was just getting into it, Captain Daly came up accompanied by his attendant bugler, and they were also accommodated in the same boat, but to make them comfortably seated, the Dewan ordered two chairs to be placed in the boat, to which the steersman objected, urging that the boat was not suited for chairs; but the dignity of the Dewan, and the impracticability of the Captain's squatting in the boat with his splendid and tight uniform would not permit his listening to the boatman's protest. The writer of this was one of the persons nominated to accompany the Maha Rajah on board, and for want of room in the boat in which His Highness embarked, he had kept himself back, and now, seeing the Dewan launching his boat, he also got into it. He had with him the Maha Rajah's valuable gold watch and guard, pencil and pocket book, together with his purse. The boat was launched, and it scarcely passed the first surf when it lurched on one side. Captain Daly's bugler who was standing behind him as his orderly, inclined to that side, and held fast the Captain's chair. This sudden movement capsized the boat.

The Dewan, in his patriarchal attire, consisting of a broad gown of blue satin and broad trowsers, made of kincob, and Captain Daly, in his new uniform, began to struggle in the surf. The bugler was very faithful to his Commander; he would not allow the Captain to be drowned alone. He held him by his neck and hung himself about him, and both were rolling together in the sea. The Dewan's bearers, who were then standing on the beach, were fishermen from Masulipatam and were splendid swimmers. On seeing their master's perilous condition, they jumped into the sea, one by one, and dragged the Dewan ashore, before

CHAP. VIII. he sustained any serious injury. Captain Daly was picked up with his bugler by a boatman. In the meantime, the writer crossed the surf and swam in the direction of the steamer and getting on board a boat which then passed by him, he reached the steamer in safety, without losing any of the articles he had in his hand, belonging to the Maha Rajah.

After looking into every part of the vessel and examining all her engines, the Maha Rajah wished to see the steamer in full steam, which request was complied with at once. The Maha Rajah looked very attentively at the dexterous motion of the paddles, and after proceeding about a couple of miles, the vessel returned to her former anchorage. His Highness was highly pleased, and Captain Evan, the Commander of the vessel was presented with a costly diamond ring, and a sum of money was given to be distributed among the crew of the vessel.

His Highness remained on board the steamer for about four hours and then returned.

About this time, His Highness thought of inviting an able and experienced native officer from the British service, in the Malabar collectorate, to co-operate with the Dewan in the improvement of the administration, expecting satisfactory results, as was the case when the late Dewan Peishcar Cunden Menon was appointed. One P. Ramen Menon, the Naib Sheristadar of the Calicut Huzzoor Cutcherry, expressed a desire to join the Travancore service, and he was appointed at first as a Deputy Peishcar on a monthly salary of three hundred Rupees and placed in charge of the magisterial and maramuth departments, both of which His Highness considered, demanded immediate and more careful attention.

All the departments of the Huzzoor began to work well when they saw the face of a stranger among them, and the affairs of the Government, showed generally an appearance of improvement.

The first munificent act of this Maha Rajah after his installation was to remit all the accumulated arrears and other dues to the Government by the ryots, during a series of years and amounting to upwards of a lac of Rupees. If the realization of these dues was insisted upon, many families would have been ruined, and for this reason alone these items of arrears were allowed to remain uncollected; but the Maha Rajah had the courage and humanity to issue a proclamation authorizing the remission of all the arrears.

Like His Highness' late brother, the Maha Rajah was a warm patron of literature, science and education, and took much interest in the improvement of all the institutions, wisely introduced during the late reign.

The Observatory, Free School, Charity Hospital and Printing office were often visited by His Highness, and he used to stay at those places a few hours whenever he visited them. Mr. Caldecott, the Astronomer, having been a great friend of His Highness (to whom His Highness owed, in some measure, his knowledge in Chemistry), took always an interest in showing His Highness the use of the various valuable instruments lately procured and adjusted in the Observatory, and in order to observe some of the early rising stars and planets, His Highness used to remain in the Observatory sometimes very late after sun-set.

About the end of this year 1024 M.E. (1849 A.D.) Mr. Caldecott died in his house at Trevandrum, and His Highness felt the loss very deeply.

Before his death, Mr. Caldecott had impressed upon His Highness the necessity of procuring the services of a first rate Astronomer from England, as his successor. He had also suggested to His Highness the establishment of a Museum at Trevandrum.

At the request of His Highness, the Resident, General Cullen, who was a scientific scholar himself, and

CHAP. VIII. who took a deep interest in the affairs of the Observatory, wrote to England and engaged the services of Mr. J. A. Brown, who soon arrived in Trevandrum and took charge of the Observatory as its director.

The preface to Mr. Brown's magnetic observations testifies to the Maha Rajah's encouragement of science, and the following is an abstract of the same :—

" His Highness Marthanda Vurmah, to whom I owed my appointment, died in 1860. His Highness was a warm-hearted gentleman, whose death was regretted by all who knew him. His knowledge of science, though greatest in Chemistry, gave him a personal interest in the Observatory, and he was ever prepared to accept any proposition likely to aid the work done in it. I shall never cease to entertain with the liveliest feelings His Highness' memory.

" His Highness Marthanda Vurmah the Rajah of Travancore having named me for the direction of his Observatory, I left Europe on the 11th November 1851, and arrived at Trevandrum on the 11th January 1852, when I took charge of the Observatory."

The Printing department was a favourite establishment of the Maha Rajah, for, from its very establishment, His Highness was in the habit of getting several little things printed for himself. His Highness, while Elia Rajah, had a portable hand-press, expressly made to order in England, which was capable of printing a page about 6 inches long and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad.

The Travancore Calendar, which was half English and half Malayalam, was altered at His Highness' suggestion, and two separate Calendars were printed, one in English and the other in Malayalam. Both of these were improved every year, the Maha Rajah himself correcting the proof sheets, especially the Malayalam Calendar, and so in time the Travancore Calendars, particularly the Malayalam one, became a

repository of various information concerning science, literature and politics. CHAP.
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As regards His Highness' encouragement of literature, the Reverend Mr. Bailey's letter published in his English and Malayalam Dictionary would be the best evidence, and the same is hereunder annexed:—

“ To

“ HIS HIGHNESS

The Rajah of Travancore.

“ SIR,

“ The very obliging manner in which Your Highness has been pleased to permit me to dedicate the following work to you, the favourable sentiments which Your Highness has graciously expressed regarding it and my former work, together with the liberality and patronage you have so condescendingly afforded me, demand my most grateful acknowledgments.

“ My sole object in publishing this and my former Dictionary dedicated by permission to Your Highness' late brother and predecessor, together with other important works which I have been permitted to carry through the press, has been a sincere desire to diffuse real useful knowledge and learning among Your Highness' subjects.

“ The works just referred to have required great labor and attention on my part, and I trust my labors will, through the blessing of Divine Providence, be eventually attended by beneficial results.

“ Your Highness has always patronized the dissemination of literature and education, and when these are grounded on the best principles, the results will most assuredly prove highly advantageous.

“ Such results I shall not be permitted to see, but that the life of Your Highness may be long spared, and that you may be permitted to witness great and

CHAP. essential benefits issuing from the various plans now
VIII. in operation for promoting real good education among
 Your Highness' subjects, is the heartfelt wish of

Your Highness' most obliged,
 Humble servant,
 (Signed) B. BAILEY.

COTTAYAM,
 November 1849. }

In the promotion of education the Maha Rajah was not behind-hand. He was, when Elia Rajah, a great friend of Mr. J. Roberts, Master of the Free School, and took a deep interest in that institution, giving Mr. Roberts every reasonable assistance for the improvement of the school. The Maha Rajah invariably attended the examination of the boys, and prizes were distributed by himself, with promises of future advancement to those who took high places in the various classes.

Some of the students of the first class were especially patronized by His Highness when he was Elia Rajah, and they were permitted to pay their respects to His Highness in the palace on appointed days, and to follow His Highness during his evening drives. Most of the boys advanced in knowledge and attached to the first class, were young men of respectable families and His Highness was very kind to them.

By the time His Highness assumed the sovereignty, nearly all the students of the first class had left the school and were capable of being employed, and in fact, a few had already entered Government service.

Foremost among those students was a young man named Vadadrisadasa Moodeliar, the only son of T. Soclochenum Moodeliar, the Naib Sheristadar of the Tinnevelly Collectorate and the grandson of Rama-lingum Mocdeliar Colonel Macaulay's dubash in the Travancore Court to whom allusions have been made in Chapter IV.

The young Moodeliar, after leaving the Trevandrum school, was taken by his father to Bombay to complete his education in the Elphinstone College, where he studied for three years as an honorary scholar, and after obtaining the highest prizes of the day, left the College and returned to his native place Tinnevelly, where he was employed in the Tinnevelly Session Court.

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During this period, the Maha Rajah resolved to give a stimulus to the education imparted at His Highness' Free School by bestowing respectable employments on all the successful scholars of Mr. Roberts.

One Ananthu Pillay, a record-keeper in the Huzzoor English office, was promoted to the high post of Melaluthu or Accountant-General, Mr. White, a volunteer of the office and the son of the then Dewan's Secretary was appointed Assistant Secretary; P. Shungoony Menon (the writer) then an English clerk, was promoted as manager of the English office; Valu Pillay, the nephew of the then head Dewan Peishcar and now the pensioned Peishcar Kasava Pillay was appointed Cundu Crishi Sarvadhi, superintendent of the Agricultural department; and several others were promoted and appointed to various departments. At this time, the Maha Rajah, who had not forgotten his favourite, Vadadrisadasa Moodeliar, wished that he should also share His Highness' patronage. He was therefore asked to come to Trevandrum and take up an appointment. The Moodeliar was at this time promoted to the head writership of the Session Court. However willing the young Moodeliar was, his father, the influential and celebrated Soolochenum Moodeliar of Tinnevelly, would not permit him to resign his post, but after his death Vadadrisadasa Moodeliar gave up his appointment, although promoted at the time to the post of Sheristadar in the Session Court and responded very loyally to the Maha Rajah's call. On his arrival at Trevandrum, he was favoured with the

CHAP. coveted appointment of the first Judgeship of the
VIII. Quilon Zillah Court.

Agreeably to arrangement, T. Madava Row arrived in Trevandrum towards the close of the Malabar year 1024 (1849 A.D.), and was appointed tutor to the Princes on a monthly salary of Rupees two hundred.

In consequence of the depressed condition of the finances, no purchase of pepper had been made from the ryots for the previous four years, and the Madras Government had made some unfavourable observations on the subject even during the former reign. Besides, the ryots themselves had complained to the Maha Rajah, representing the difficulty and inconvenience they were undergoing to get possession of large quantities of pepper grown in their grounds since the last four years.

In 1025 M.E. (1849 A.D.) a consultation was held by a committee of officers, presided over by the Dewan Krishna Row, by the express command of the Maha Rajah to devise the most effective measures for purchasing pepper from the ryots. The opinion of the majority of the officers was in favour of raising a loan of a lac of Rupees from merchants and others. But P. Shungoony Menon, manager of the English office (the writer), suggested that instead of raising a loan of a lac of Rupees among the merchants, the ryots themselves may be made the lenders, and the collection of pepper from the ryots be made on receipts granted to them for the value of the article, which, being immediately sold by the Government through the commercial agent, payment could be made to the ryots on the producing of such receipts. This suggestion was generally approved of, and when communicated to His Highness and the Resident, they concurred in this opinion, and the Maha Rajah said that Shungoony Menon himself might be deputed to the duty of taking charge of the pepper and granting

receipts for the same. In the course of four months, a large quantity of pepper was received from the ryots and despatched to the Commercial Dépôt at Alleppey, where that energetic and painstaking Sircar Agent, Mr. H. Crawford, effected a speedy and profitable sale of the stock, and with the proceeds of the sale the ryots were paid, and with the surplus the costly ceremony, Thulapurusha danam, was performed in the year 1025 M.E. (1849 A.D.)

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In this year, the Madras Government intimated to the Maha Rajah regarding the intended holding of the London Exhibition of 1851, and requested the aid of His Highness' Government in making contributions to the great show. The Maha Rajah ordered the Dewan to nominate a committee of officers for collecting articles for the Exhibition, and in communication with the Resident, Dr. Patersoa, the Durbar Physician, Mr. Kohlioff, a Judge of the Appeal Court, and Ramen Menon, Dewan Pusbear, were desired to form a committee, with manager Shungonny Menon as Secretary. A very satisfactory collection consisting of all the raw products and manufactures of Travancore was made. On this occasion, an ivory State chair, in the shape of a throne, which was under construction some time previous for the use of His Highness the Maha Rajah, was considered to be a fit specimen of Travancore workmanship to be exhibited in London, and so His Highness issued instructions to hasten the completion of the work. When it was finished, the Maha Rajah forwarded it along with the other articles for the Exhibition, with a wish that Her Majesty the Queen of England would accept the throne after the Exhibition, as a token of His Highness' regard and esteem. This idea was highly approved of by General Cullen, the Resident, as well as the Madras Government, and the Estate chair and the other articles were despatched to England via Madras, with a letter from the Maha Rajah to Her Majesty.

CHAP. VIII The following is a copy of the Maha Rajah's address to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen :—

“ To

*Her Most Excellent Majesty Alexandrina Victoria,
By the Grace of God, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.*

&c. &c. &c. &c. &c.

“ From

*His Highness Sree Padmanabha Dasa Vanji Pala
Marthanda Vurmah Kulashkara Kereetapathi
Bhagheodaya Rama Rajah Munnay Sultan
Maharaj Rajah Bahadur Shamsheer Jung,
Maha Rajah of Travancore.*

“ MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY.

“ Major General W. Cullen, the British Resident at my court, and my valued friend and adviser, having conveyed to me a communication from the Court of Directors of the East India Company through the Government of Madras, intimating that Your Majesty had been pleased to appoint certain learned and eminent gentlemen as Commissioners for carrying out a project formed at the instance and under the distinguished patronage of Your Majesty's Royal Consort His Royal Highness the Prince Albert, for the collection and exposition in Your Majesty's city of London in the ensuing year 1851 of the specimens of produce, manufactures, and arts of all countries and nations, and awarding prizes to the most approved productions, and requesting the co-operation and aid of my Government in the promotion of this most laudable and important object by collecting and forwarding to the said Exhibition specimens of articles from my country, I have given the most particular instructions to my Dewan for the furnishing of the choicest and most useful and interesting of the productions, which instructions are now being executed with all care and

expedition under the immediate direction of my friend
Major-General W. Cullen. CHAP.
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“The transmission of articles from this country for the Exhibition has afforded me an opportunity of which I am anxious to avail myself of forwarding also to London a chair of State, made of ivory, carved and ornamented, the production wholly of the native artists of my country, and which I request permission to offer for Your Majesty’s acceptance as a curiosity, and at the same time as a slight token of my profound respect for Your Majesty’s exalted person and for the numerous and great virtues for which Your Majesty is so eminently distinguished.

“I beg Your Majesty will graciously condescend to receive this friendly, but humble tribute, from the Native Prince of a country situated at the very southern extremity of Your Majesty’s vast Indian empire, who is, as every one of his predecessors has always been, a faithful ally and dependent of the British Government, which, on its part, has ever extended to us its protection and favor, a relation which I humbly trust will continue to the end of time. And wishing Your Majesty a long happy reign and Your Majesty’s Royal Consort, and all the members of Your Majesty’s illustrious family long life and happiness.

I beg to subscribe myself Your Majesty’s most devoted faithful friend and servant.”

TREVANDRUM PALACE, }
11th October 1850. }

A regulation for admitting pauper suits was passed and the number of Munsiffs was reduced from 25 to 16, and the jurisdiction of both the Munsiffs and Judges extended in this year 1025 M.E. (1850 A.D.)

In the next year there were several fires in the town of Trevandrum, and many poor families became houseless. The Maha Rajah, with his usual generosity, made gifts to the various families who suffered from

CHAP. the conflagrations and were reduced to poverty.
VIII. His Highness took this as a fitting opportunity to insist upon the people who lived in the town and its suburbs, to have their dwellings tiled. In former times, there was some restriction regarding the use of tiles, as certain classes of people could not avail themselves of the privilege of tiling their houses, without royal permission; but this restriction was entirely removed by a royal proclamation during the former reign, when a very serious and destructive fire broke out in the town and bazaars of Alleppey. In the course of about a year the town of Trevandrum and the Challay bazaar could boast of many new tiled buildings.

At the close of the year 1851 A.D., a reply from Her Majesty the Queen of England reached General Cullen's hands, through the Madras Government, and when the happy news was communicated to the Maha Rajah, His Highness' joy and delight were almost inexpressible.

As this was the first event of the kind in Travancore, nay, in any native court of India, a letter under the Sign Manual of Her Majesty never having been known before, His Highness considered it no ordinary honor to be thus favoured, and he therefore determined to mark this occasion with all possible grandeur and pomp.

A special temporary portico was added to the Durbar hall and was adorned with all kinds of choice decorations. The whole building (Durbar hall) was richly furnished and tastefully arranged. This being the time of the sexennial ceremony called "Murajapam," every part of the town was crowded with Numberous Brahmans from all parts of Malabar and Travancore.

A day was fixed for the reception of Her Majesty's letter and a general order was published by beat of tom-tom requiring every family residing in the town and its suburbs to have their gates decorated with flowers,

plantain trees, &c., and their walls adjoining the streets white-washed. Sircar servants were ordered to see the decorating of all the principal streets and other places in the town.

In the evening of the previous day, a few companies of the Madras Native Infantry stationed at Quilon arrived at Trevandrum by appointment, under the command of Colonel Hutton.

The next day was fixed for the grand Durbar. At noon, the troops consisting of all the available sepoyes of the Nair brigade and the few companies of the British troops, together with the mounted Body Guard of the Maha Rajah and several huge elephants fully caparisoned and decked with silver howdahs, flags and other emblems of the State were paraded on the plain facing the hall of audience, in the southern street where the Durbar was to be held.

A little before the appointed time which was 1 P.M., the European ladies and gentlemen of Trevandrum, Quilon, Nagercoil and other places, who were specially invited for the occasion, arrived one by one, and the hall below and the newly erected pavilion began to be filled with European gentlemen, some in their military uniforms and others in their morning dress, and ladies in the fashionable costumes of the period. All were waiting for the arrival of the Maha Rajah and the Resident, and were moving about in the Durbar hall by twos and threes, admiring the tasteful arrangements of the rooms and pavilion, and minutely examining the various splendid and excellent mirrors, pictures and the magnificent portraits of the royal family, executed by European and native artists with which the walls were adorned.

Mr. Lewis, the celebrated European artist, who came to India at this time, was invited by the Maha Rajah to Trevandrum, and this gentleman was now engaged in taking a sketch of the Durbar.

All the State officers, with the exception of the Dewan and the first Judge of the Appeal Court, were ordered to proceed to the residency to accompany the procession of the Resident, with the Queen's letter, to the Durbar hall.

The largest elephant in the State was richly caparisoned and a silver howdah was placed on it; for conveying the letter. Major Drury, the Assistant Resident, mounted on the elephant in his uniform and sat in the howdah, having the royal letter covered in gold cloth in his hand, and the procession moved slowly from the residency to the Fort, a distance of above a mile, accompanied by the State officers in their carriages, a battalion of the Nair brigade, a few troopers with a portion of the brigade band, and a number of native musicians, and a large concourse of people merrily cheering, shouting and showing demonstrations of joy. The road leading from the gate of the residency to the front of the Durbar room was filled with people of all descriptions, and as the procession approached places where females were gathered, these set up their usual shouting "Kurawah" (hurrah), which they generally do, in token of their regard for the sovereign of the country, as well as on all joyous occasions such as marriage, child-birth, &c.

The Resident, General Cullen, reached the gate a few minutes before the procession arrived, so as to receive the letter from his assistant in time, and as Major Drury dismounted from the howdah, General Cullen advanced and took charge of the letter and with it he entered the Durbar hall. The Maha Rajah, His Highness' nephew and relations, and all the officers of the State and many nobles and chiefs of the country, were present in the hall, where two rows of ladies and gentlemen had already taken their seats. The assembly in the hall was so large that it was considered to be the first gathering of the kind in that room since its construction. All the noted Namboory Brahmans were also present, regardless of their superstitious

notions of pollution, and defilement at the approach of Europeans, Sudras and others.

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The Maha Rajah stood in the centre of the assembly and the Resident, General Cullen, approached His Highness with Her Majesty's letter in his hand. The Maha Rajah advanced a few paces, and with a graceful air received the valued packet with a low bow, and raised the same thrice to his head to show His Highness' profound respect for the Queen, and then opened the seal and perused the letter himself with a smile, while his eyes were filled with tears of joy. His Highness then again raising the letter to his forehead and applying Her Majesty's Sign Manual, which was just on the top of the letter, to His Highness' head, handed it over to the Dewan, Krishna Row, to be read out to the assembly. The place then resounded with the roar of a royal salute in honor of Her Majesty, and three volleys of musketry both from the British troops, as well as from the Nair brigade. Salutes were also fired as usual on the arrival and return of the Resident, and the band struck up the national anthem. Native music of various descriptions almost deafened the ears of the multitude from the commencement of the ceremony to its conclusion.

By the time the Durbar was concluded, Mr. Lewis finished a correct sketch of his view of the spectacle, and the same was subsequently enlarged and painted. When finished, it was taken to England by him and he had it engraved and printed there.

The following is a copy of Her Majesty's letter above alluded to :—

Sign Manual (VICTORIA.)

“ Victoria, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Christian Faith,

&c. &c. &c. &c.

“ To

His Highness Sree Padmanabha Dasa Vanji Pala

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*Marthanda Vurmah Kulasekhara Kireetapathi
Bhaigheodaya Rama Rajah Bahadur Shamsheeर
Jung, Rajah of Travancore.*

“ We have received safely the splendid chair of State which Your Highness has transmitted to England for our acceptance.

“ It was a source of much gratification to us that Your Highness' attention enabled us to exhibit in the great exposition of the industry of all nations, so beautiful a specimen of the ability acquired by the natives of Your Highness' country in the carving of ivory.

“ Your Highness' chair has occupied a prominent position amongst the wonderful works of art which have been collected in our metropolis, and Your Highness' liberality and the workmanship of the natives of Travancore have there received due admiration from a vast multitude of spectators.

“ We shall find a suitable opportunity of conveying to Your Highness some token of our esteem, and we hope that it may please the Almighty to vouchsafe to Your Highness the enjoyment of many years of health and prosperity.

“ Given at our Court at Osborne, this 21st day of August in the year of Our Lord 1851, and in the fifteenth year of Our reign.”

“ By Her Majesty's command.

(Countersigned.) BROUGHTON.”

The affairs of His Highness' Government were progressing satisfactorily, when several unforeseen events and certain misfortunes befell the Maha Rajah and the country, which threw the whole administration into confusion, affecting the financial condition of the State most seriously.

In the following year 1028 M.E. (1852 A.D.), the excessive rainfall caused inundations and destroyed all the crops which were then being harvested in the northern districts of Travancore, while the cultivation

for the next year 1029 M.E. (1853 A.D.) was ruined throughout the kingdom. The land revenue, the source of the prosperity of the people and of commerce, suffered severely. Paddy and provisions were sold at famine prices and even at those high rates the necessities of life were not procurable in the country. It was in this year for the first time, that Bengal paddy and rice were imported into Travancore, through the Sircar's Commercial Agent, Mr. Crawford, who displayed his usual energy in procuring large quantities of grain to save the lives of the famine-stricken.

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Simultaneously with this dire calamity to the finances, the Honorable East India Company abolished their tobacco monopoly, which circumstance paved the way for the smuggling of tobacco into Travancore from British territories, and the measure proved highly detrimental to this source of revenue in Travancore. The revenue from the commercial department of the State was the chief item wherewith the monthly disbursements were met, and a failure of the usual profits of this department caused great embarrassment and added to the already existing financial difficulties. Dewan Krishna Row now found that it was morely a transition from the frying pan into the fire.

While the Dewan was strenuously exerting to meet these difficulties, Her Highness Gouree Parwathi Ranees, the Maha Rajah's aunt, who had been once the Regent in the kingdom fell ill and died after a short illness. This unexpected and melancholy event threw the Maha Rajah and the whole royal family into the greatest grief, especially as His Highness had regarded his aunt as his own mother, whom His Highness had not the fortune to see, as she died when he was but three months old.

As Her Highness was the senior Ranees and once regent, the funeral ceremonies and other observances on the demise of a sovereign were to be performed without any omission. The whole kingdom was in

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VIII. mourning for about a week, and the bazaars and public offices were closed for three days as usual.

This event caused an additional expenditure, which admitted of no delay; for the expenses attending the performance of the various ceremonies connected with the demise of Her Highness were to be continued for a year and concluded at the anniversary, and so it was no ordinary trial to the Dewan at this critical time.

However, the Dewan surmounted all difficulties and managed affairs to His Highness' entire satisfaction.

The head Dewan Peishcar, Kasava Pillay, died in the previous year, but the Maha Rajah having in contemplation certain arrangements in connection with that vacancy, it was not filled up immediately.

For three years Madava Row labored hard and completed the education of His Highness the third Prince (His Highness the present first Prince). Special pains were also taken to perfect His Highness the first Prince's (the present Maha Rajah) knowledge of English, and the Maha Rajah noticing his abilities wanted to transfer the young man, Madava Row, into the public service, feeling sure that he would be of great use to the country in time.

In the early part of this year 1028 M.E. (1853 A.D.), deputy Peishcars Ramen Menon and Veeraswamy Naidoo were promoted as Dewan Peishcars, and two vacancies were thus created. T. Madava Row was selected to fill one of these vacancies, and was put in charge of two departments of the Huzoor, viz. the Chowkey and Devaswam (customs and religious institutions). The newly appointed officer began to distinguish himself in his new sphere.

About this period, a question was raised by the late Reverend Mr. Hawksworth of Thiruvellah concerning the right of men of lower castes on embracing Christianity, to move among the higher castes of people. The Madras Government called upon General Cullen, the Resident, to institute an inquiry and



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bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion. The Maha Rajah appointed the Deputy Police Sheristadar, P. Shungoony Menon, Commissioner, and he proceeded to the north and took down the evidence of the Vicar Apostolic of Quilon, the Vicar-General of the Bishopric of Cochin, stationed at Quilon, the Bishop and Vicar Apostolic of Malabar stationed at Verapolay, the Syrian Metropolitan of Malabar residing at Cottayam, and the Mahomedan Thankel and Cazi of Calliquilon, and also of some of the Heads of the Hindoo community, concerning the custom prevailing among people professing each of those religions in regard to Christian converts from the lower castes. After concluding the inquiry, the matter was finally decided according to the Commissioner's report.

The Madras Government about this time moved the question of the abolition of slavery in Travancore; but the subject had already engaged the Maha Rajah's attention for the last two years, and great difficulty having been experienced in convincing the various jemmies and landed proprietors (to whom the slaves belonged, and who urged that the abolition of slavery would tend to the ruin of agriculture), His Highness left the matter in abeyance.

In the Malabar year 1029, (1853 A.D.), His Highness, by a proclamation, declared that all future children of Government slaves are free from bondage, and also made provisions for the improved condition of the other slaves and a couple of years subsequently, the Maha Rajah abolished slavery in His Highness' dominions by a royal proclamation. This was towards the middle of the year 1855 A.D.

In the year 1028 M.E. (1853 A.D.), the first Judge of the Appeal Court, the late head Dewan Peishcar Sreencava Row, died from apoplexy, and that post became vacant. The Maha Rajah wished to give a trial to the third Judge of the same Court, one Paramasuren Numboory, a native of the Malabar collectorate, who had taken service under the late Maha Rajah as a Munsiff,

CHAP. and was since promoted to the Alleppey Zillah Court
VIII. and thence to the Appeal Court.

He was considered a man possessing great knowledge of the land tenures of Malabar and the rights of castes among the Hindus, and also as having a slight knowledge of the civil regulations of the British Courts.

This Numboory Judge was now promoted to the first Judgeship of the Appeal Court, and early in this year 1029 M.E. (1854 A.D.), by his activity and zeal in the discharge of public business, he justified the choice of the Maha Rajah.

It was already mentioned that a stone bridge was being built under the supervision of Lieutenant Horsley across the Karamanay river, during the late reign. This work was now completed and the Maha Rajah proposed to open the bridge personally with due ceremony.

A certain evening about the middle of December 1853, was appointed for the ceremony, and on that day, the bridge, a very magnificent building, constructed at a cost of above a lac of Rupees, was tastefully decorated with banners of different descriptions, flowers, banana and plantain fruits with stocks, lines of festoons, made with flowers and tender leaves of the cocoanut and palm. Two fine tents were pitched on either side of the bridge, and they were also adorned with flowers and splendid fruits, &c. The roads between the bridge and the fort gate were decorated with festoons and flowers, as is generally done on all occasions of State processions.

Early on the morning of the appointed day, invitations were issred by the Dewan to all the ladies and gentlemen of Trevandrum, and the Commandant of the Nair brigade was desired to parade all the available sepoys at the northern side of the bridge, leaving a couple of con panies to escort His Highness to the bridge.

At about 4 P.M., a large assembly consisting of European ladies and gentlemen, as well as native officials and men of rank, crowded on the northern side of the bridge, while multitudes of people, men, women and children, gathered on either side of the river. The brigade sepoy formed a line, with a full complement of European and native officers, who stood in front of them.

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At about 5 o'clock, His Highness the Maha Rajah arrived in procession in the State car, accompanied by their Highnesses the first and third Princes, and by all the other members of the royal family. A royal salute announced the arrival of the Maha Rajah, and the further reverberation of 17 guns informed the people of the Resident's joining the party. General Cullen was received by His Highness in the tent, where all the ladies and gentlemen were assembled, and after a few minutes conversation, His Highness, set out on foot with General Cullen, followed by their Highnesses the first and third Princes, and all the ladies and gentlemen, for the ceremony of opening the bridge. The brigade sepoy with the officers and the brigade band, together with the mounted troops and the several huge elephants with howdahs and the royal ensigns, preceded His Highness and party to the bridge. The roar of the artillery and the sounds of the native drums and music deafened the ears of the crowd.

On the procession reaching the southern side of the bridge, it halted for a few minutes and turned back in the same style as before, and the Maha Rajah and party re-entered the large State tent, where luncheon for the ladies and gentlemen was ready, and the party remained there for about an hour to refresh themselves. The Maha Rajah, together with his nephews, also stayed there till the luncheon was over, and then the party broke up, delighted and satisfied with the proceedings of the evening. Thus successfully concluded the ceremony of opening a bridge, the

CHAP. foundation of which was laid personally by His Highness the late Maha Rajah.

VIII. Though one of the two ceremonies appertaining to the coronation was performed in the year 1025, M.E. (1850 A.D.), the other one, Hirannya Garbha danam, was still delayed owing to financial difficulties, and as a formal coronation of the Maha Rajah was indispensably necessary in a religious point of view, the Maha Rajah was obliged to undergo the expense connected with that grand ceremony, and in consultation with His Highness' friend, General Cullen, it was resolved to perform it in this year 1029 M.E. (1854 A.D.) Dewan Krishna Row undertook to make all the necessary preparations for it. The ceremony was conducted with all due pomp and grandeur and concluded most satisfactorily to His Highness, as well as to all others concerned. A detailed account of this ceremony having appeared from the able pen of "a Travancorean," and the same having been quoted in the first chapter of this work, it would be unnecessary to repeat it here.

The population of Travancore had not been ascertained since the year 1836, and it was now considered necessary to take the census, for which the Dewan was ordered by His Highness to adopt measures. The mode of reckoning the populace adopted in the last census was now followed without any improvement, and consequently the result recorded was the same as that obtained by the last census, with a slight decrease. The system observed on these two occasions was to commission the local proverthecars to count the houses and their inhabitants in the classification of the various castes, and forward the accounts which are generally written on olas (palmyra leaves) to the respective tahsildars and through them to the Huzzoor, where it was finally computed and adjusted. The results of the census of this year, 1854, showed a total of 1,262,647 inhabitants while that of the year 1836 was 1,280,668 showing a decrease of 18,021 souls.

The above figures were not at all correct as was proved by the subsequent systematic reckoning. CHAP.
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Having been requested by the Madras Government to collect and forward articles for the Paris Exhibition in 1855, the Maha Rajah ordered a Committee, presided over by Major Grant, the then Commanding officer, Dr. Reid, and the Deputy Peishcar Madava Row to be the members thereof. A very satisfactory and handsome contribution was forwarded for the show and it afforded general satisfaction in Paris and elicited the approbation of the spectators.

The constant appearance in the *Athenaeum* of various unfavourable accounts of Travancore; the depressed condition of the finances, and the excess in the expenditure had attracted the notice of the Governor-General, Lord Dalhousie, and when information regarding the great expenditure incurred in performing the Hirannya Garbha danam at such a time, reached him, the annexation fever broke out afresh, and His Excellency considered that it was a favorable opportunity for the Government of India to interfere with the affairs of Travancore.

Lord Dalhousie, while at the Neilgherry Hills, wrote a minute containing instructions to the Madras Government, to impress upon the Travancore Maha Rajah, the necessity of immediate reformation, and correction of the disorganized state of affairs, and accordingly, the Madras Governor, Lord Harris, sent a strongly worded communication to the Maha Rajah. General Cullen also did not escape unscathed.

The Maha Rajah felt this remonstrance very deeply, especially as the Governor-General had founded his minute upon conjectures and misrepresentations, and had no opportunity of knowing the real worth of His Highness, as well as the true state of affairs in Travancore.

His Highness the First Prince (the present Maha Rajah) who was about 21 years of age, was treated

CHAP. VIII. as a companion by the Maha Rajah, without whom His Highness seldom moved beyond the palace doors and without whose counsel the Maha Rajah seldom transacted any important business, was the first confidential personage consulted on the subject of the Government communications, and His Highness the first Prince, who was even then blessed with a sound judgment and a calm reasoning power, suggested to his royal uncle the mode of responding to the call of the Government.

A meeting of the public officers, consisting of the Dewan, the first Judges of the Appeal and Zillah Courts, and the palace Sarvadhikariakar, was ordered under the Presidentship of His Highness the first Prince, T. Madaya Row, acting as Secretary. The subject was warmly discussed, and the draft of a reply prepared ; which after being carefully read by the Maha Rajah, was adopted, and forwarded to Government through the Resident, General Cullen.

The Madras Government was satisfied : so also was the Government of India, and the fear of annexation entertained by the ignorant portion of the people and talked about throughout Malabar, was removed.

In this year 1030 M.E. (1855 A.D.), the Maha Rajah issued a proclamation abolishing the monopoly of pepper, and making that article a dutiable one like other staples of the country.

About this time, the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Presidency, General Anson, paid a visit to Travancore. When the Maha Rajah received positive information as to the date of his arrival at Balghauty in Cochin, His Highness deputed Police Sheristadar P. Shungonny Menon and deputy Peishcar Valu Pillay, the former to proceed to Balghauty to meet His Excellency and offer the Maha Rajah's compliments to His Excellency, and the latter to wait at Arookutty, the northern frontier of Travancore, to welcome His Excellency on his arrival there. From thence these officers were to escort General Anson to



H. H. THE FIRST PRINCE.

Trevandrum. The Dewan was directed to proceed to CHAP.
Quilon and receive His Excellency on his arrival at VIII.
that place.

The Commander-in-Chief and suite consisting of Colonel the Honorable Curzon, His Excellency's Military Secretary, Major Denison, Aide-de-Camp, and Colonel Reid, Quarter Master General, arrived at Balghauty towards the end of August 1855, when the Sheristadar met His Excellency there and conveyed His Highness' message to the Chief and then accompanied the party to the frontier Arookutty, there the Deputy Peishcar waited to receive him with all pomp and ceremony. As His Excellency and party neared the frontier (Arookutty) in cabin boats, the blowing of trumpets and the noise of drums and other musical instruments, as well as the shoutings of the crowd collected there, surprised the party. Bouquets of fragrant flowers, fine ripe limes and beautiful bunches of ripe plantains were taken to the boat by the Peishcar, and His Excellency and party were highly delighted at this, the first manifestation of the Travancore Maha Rajah's regard and attention towards the Chief Military Officer of the Madras Presidency.

General Anson and party reached Alleppey, and the Commercial Agent, Mr. Crawford, gave them a hearty reception, and they were entertained at a grand dinner that day. As it was very late when the party broke up they had to postpone their departure to Quilon to the next day. After dinner at 5 p.m., His Excellency and party set out from Alleppey, the Peishcar and Sheristadar keeping pace with the boats of the party.

Before day-break, they reached Quilon and was received by the Dewan and the Officer Commanding at Quilon (Colonel Pinson), with all the other Officers attached to the Madras Native Infantry Regiment stationed there.

On His Excellency's way from Alleppey to Quilon, at Ambalapulay (Karumady), Thrikunnapulay, and

CHAP. other stages where there was a relay of rowers, there
VIII. were grand pyrotechnical displays, got up by the local officers.

There was a grand party at the residency on that and the following day given by the Military Officers.

Leaving Quilon, the Commander-in-Chief and suite reached Trevandrum and stayed at the residency. As the Resident, General Cullen, was absent at Courtallum, the Maha Rajah arranged everything for His Excellency's comfort during his stay at the residency.

In the afternoon of the Chief's arrival at Trevandrum, the Maha Rajah received His Excellency in Durbar, and General Anson was exceedingly pleased with the affability and gentlemanly disposition of the Maha Rajah.

After the Durbar, the Maha Rajah drove General Anson in his own carriage to the palace, where His Highness' niece (the only Princess) was residing, and had an interview with the Ranees and her first son, the infant Prince. His Excellency and party left Trevandrum, highly satisfied and carrying with them a very favorable impression regarding His Highness and his beautiful country. The Sheristadar followed the party up to the southern frontiers of Travancore.

The following official report from Dewan Krishna Row to General Cullen, concerning the Commander-in-Chief's visit will not be uninteresting :—

" No 1588.

" HUZZOOR CUTCHERRY,

Trevandrum.

' LIEUTENANT GENERAL W. CULLEN,'

" *British Resident of Travancore*

&c. &c. &c.

" Sir,

" I have the honor to report for your information that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief together with his Staff arrived at Quilon on the morning of the



ALFA BARFIS, LITHO

HIGGINBOTHAM & CO

H.H.PRINCE ATTHUM THIRUNAL.

25th instant, and at Trevandrum last evening at CHAP.
VIII. 7 o'clock."

"The Deputy Peishcar, Valu Pillay and the Police Sheristadar Shungoony Menon, met His Excellency at Arookutty, the northern frontier of Travancore, and have accompanied him down to this place, and I am glad to state that he has expressed that every attention was paid and assistance offered to His Excellency and suite all along the way.

"I myself proceeded to Quilon and met His Excellency there, by the desire of His Highness and immediately returned to this place.

"This evening at 4 o'clock, His Highness the Maha Rajah received His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief at the hall of audience at a public Durbar, and all military honors were paid to His Excellency on that occasion. His Excellency, in company with His Highness, visited Her Highness the Ranee and the infant Prince. His Excellency intends leaving Trevandrum to-morrow afternoon for Cape Comorin, whither the police Sheristadar will also accompany His Excellency, and I have sent orders to all the local officers in the south to afford every assistance and attention to His Excellency on his way throughout their respective districts.

I have, &c., &c.,

(Signed) V. KRISHNA ROW,"

Dewan.

The sudden death, from apoplexy, of Dewan Peishcar Veeraswamy Naidoo, towards the close of the 1st Malabar year, left his place vacant and the Maha Rajah promoted to that post deputy Peishcar Madava Row in the Malabar year 1030 (1855 A.D.)

Dewan Peishcar Rameen Menon drafted various rules with the view of introducing reforms, and he submitted them to the Maha Rajah and the Resident. But changes in the existing system were not favorably viewed at the time by General Cullen and the Dewan

CHAP. Krishna Row. One of the proposals of Ramen
VIII. Menon was the establishment of separate divisions in
the kingdom, each under a Dewan Peishcar.

Scarcely a year had elapsed after Madava Row's promotion, when he made a similar movement regarding the introduction of a system of division of labor among the highest revenue officials. He supported his proposals with powerful reasons, and his arguments for promoting the interests of the Maha Rajah's Government and the welfare of the people were found to be very cogent and irresistible both by Dewan Krishna Row and General Cullen while the Maha Rajah had already taken the side of the Dewan Peishcar Madava Row.

In the early part of the year 1856 (middle of the Malabar year 1031), a rule was passed under the Maha Rajah's sanction establishing two divisions, one in the south, comprising the districts of Thovalay, Auguteswarom, Kalculam, Eraneel, and Velavencode; and the other in the north, consisting of the districts of Sharetalay, Vycome, Yetmanoor, Cottayam, Chunganacherry, Meenachil, Thodupolay, Moovatupolay, Cunnathnaud, Alangaud and Paravoor.

Madava Row was appointed Dewan Peishcar of the southern division, and Ramen Menon of the northern division, the management of the intermediate districts resting with the Dewan as before.

Towards the close of this year, Dewan Krishna Row found great difficulty in adjusting the annual accounts, owing to the non-payment of the arrears of the various establishments, and the dues to the several contractors who supplied tobacco, salt and other articles to the Sircar, and the Maha Rajah considered it imperatively necessary to assist the Dewan in paying off the arrears.

A loan of five lacs of Rupees was received from the Tre andrum pagoda (Devaswam fund), at 5 per cent. per annum, with a promise to clear the debt by monthly



HER HIGHNESS LEKSHMI RANEE.

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instalments of Rupees (7,500) seven thousand five hundred. CHAP.
VIII

With the above amount, payments of all the arrears were made, and the Dewan continued his administration with fresh vigour.

In 1856, Lord Harris, Governor of Madras, proposed to hold an Exhibition in Madras, of the various minerals, manufactures and raw materials of the Presidency. Intimation of the same having been received in the early part of 1855, a Committee consisting of Major Grant, the Commanding Officer, Madava Row, the Southern Peishcar and Shungoony Menon, Police Sheristadar, was formed by order of the Maha Rajah, the last named officer acting as Secretary to the Committee. A very fair collection of articles was made and forwarded to the Exhibition, together with some valuable old jewels, and a collection of rare coins, belonging to the Maha Rajah's palace. The Secretary prepared a clear and copious report on the resources of the Maha Rajah's kingdom, and forwarded the same along with the articles to Madras. A first class Medal was awarded to the Maha Rajah and a second class one to the writer of the report which was published by the Madras Government along with the results of the Exhibition. Travancore held a high place in the Madras Exhibition and competed well with many of the Collectorates under the Presidency.

The regulation introduced in the Malabar year 1010 for holding circuit sessions for criminal trials was rescinded in this year 1032 M.E. (1857 A.D.) and a new enactment was introduced by the Maha Rajah establishing Session Judges in each of the Zillahs in Travancore, on the same system as that then in vogue in the British territories.

Towards the beginning of the ensuing year, a great calamity plunged the whole kingdom of Travancore in sorrow. This was caused by the sudden and unexpected death of Her Highness the Ranee (Attinal Mootha Thampuran), the only niece and surviving

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female member of the royal family, and the only hope of the Maha Rajah for continuing the ancient royal line. Her Highness the Ranee gave birth to her second son on the (25th September 1857) 11th Canny 1033, and died on the 22nd of the same month, after a very slight illness, at the age of twenty-eight years.

It is impossible to describe the grief of the Maha Rajah and the rest of the royal family on this sorrowful day.

Though this irreparable loss could not be easily forgotten by the Maha Rajah, yet it felt that immediate measures should be taken for the adoption of some female members into the royal family.

It will be seen from the foregoing chapters, that whenever the female line of this royal house become extinct, one or two members used to be adopted from the family of the Kolathnaud Rajah, and now as the near relatives of the last adopted Princess were residing at Mavalikaray, the adoption of two young Ranees from that family was decided upon by the Maha Rajah.

This proposal was strongly seconded by General Cullen, and the Madras Government acceded to the measure at once. The adoption ceremony was performed in the same year.

The Maha Rajah's feelings of gratification on this occasion are fully evinced in one of His Highness' letters to General Cullen, a quotation from which is inserted here :

" Your name is associated in our memory with many important and interesting events, the most conspicuous of which is the permission made through your powerful intercession for the continuation of the line of succession to the musnud of Travancore, an event which nothing can erase from the memory of myself, family, and the whole country, and for which we cannot adequately feel grateful."



PRINCE MOOLUM THIRUNAL

LITHOOG BY ROSS BROTHERS

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The adopted Ranees were their Highnesses the senior Ranee Lekshmi Bhye, and junior Ranee Parwathi Bhye. They were eight and six years of age respectively at the time of their adoption.

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In this year the tariff value of articles fixed in 1011 M.E. (1836 A.D.), was revised and a new scale introduced throughout Travancore for affording further facility for the increase of trade. By this arrangement several articles were exempted from the payment of duty.

The sepoy mutiny of 1857, caused the Maha Rajah great consternation and regret, and the Cawnpore tragedy, pierced his heart deeply as if the dire calamity had befallen his own country. Dewan Krishna Row received immediate instructions from His Highness to attend to every requisition of General Cullen and render all possible assistance to the British Government.

Every seaport, every town, and every place of note, was ordered to be carefully guarded. Every pilgrim from the north, going to Ramaswaram, was thoroughly searched before he passed His Highness' dominions, in order that all secret communications and all people travelling under disguise, might be detected.

The Maha Rajah with his usual liberality took a share in contributing to the aid of the families who suffered from the mutiny.

In the course of a year and a half, the Dewan was able to pay off not only the dues of the Sircar, but also a part of the loan received from the pagoda. In addition to these, he managed to have a large sum of money in the treasury for the performance of the Murajapam, which was to be commenced at the first quarter of this year 1033 M.E. (end of 1857 A.D.)

At the commencement of this grand ceremony (Murajapam), Dewan Krishna Row fell ill, and in the course of a week he died.

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On the day of his death, Krishna Row expressed a wish to see the Maha Rajah, who very kindly called on him, accompanied by His Highness' nephew, the present Maha Rajah. The dying Dewan had thus the happiness of seeing and conversing with his gracious master just before his death.

This loyal and faithful Dewan begged His Highness' pardon for all the faults and errors he might have committed during his tenure of office, and informed the Maha Rajah that he was the most fortunate among all His Highness' servants, for Providence destined him to die in the service of the Maha Rajah. The Maha Rajah acted the part of a spiritual minister to his dying Dewan, recommending his soul to the mercy of the Almighty, and advising him to think of nothing but of his merciful Creator.

Dewan Krishna Row breathed his last a few minutes after the Maha Rajah's departure. General Cullen, the Resident, the Dewan's patron, also paid him his last visit an hour before the Maha Rajah's arrival. All the State officials were present at his death-bed, and Krishna Row spoke to every one of them in his last moments, retaining full consciousness to the very last. He died at about 11 P.M.

The Maha Rajah felt very deeply the loss of Krishna Row, and his funeral ceremony was ordered to be performed with all the marks of respect due to his rank and position as prime minister. Almost all the State officers followed on foot the funeral procession, and his remains were cremated in one of his own gardens.

The unexpected death of Dewan Krishna Row at such a critical time placed His Highness in a great dilemma with regard to the filling up of the vacancy.

There was Ramen Menon, the senior Dewan Peishcar, and a candidate by right, to the post of the deceased Dewan. This Peishcar was a capital revenue officer, and had experience in the magisterial line, having been employed from his boyhood in the British

service, and gradually rising to the highest office to which a native could aspire at that time under the Malabar Collector. His experience was very great in the British and Travancore territories. This was the tenth year of his service under the Travancore Government, and he was now holding a position next to the Dewan.

Every one in the country, including the State officials, both ministerial and judicial, was in favor of Ramen Menon's appointment as Dewan, and General Cullen, the Resident, was also in a measure inclined to view Ramen Menon's claims favorably. But the Maha Rajah who always adopted important measures after due consideration, and never committed himself to a policy without due deliberation and foresight, did not quite concur in their view. His Highness was principally guided by a great anxiety to further the interests of his country and the welfare of his people.

While admitting Dewan Peishcar Ramen Menon's claims to the vacant office, His Highness considered that the Dewan Peishcar was not exactly the kind of person suited for the times. As usual, His Highness, consulted his nephew, the present Maha Rajah, on this important question, and asked His Highness' opinion as to the propriety of appointing T. Madava Row, Dewan Peishcar, as the successor of the deceased Dewan. His Highness the Prince approved of that measure as the best to be adopted under the circumstances, and he was of opinion that the Maha Rajah's views should be carried into execution without any further delay.

The Maha Rajah, acting upon his own resolution and the advice of his nephew, sent an express communication directing Dewan Peishcar Madava Row to repair to Trevandrum post haste, the matter having been personally arranged already with General Cullen, who also approved of the Maha Rajah's choice.

Dewan Peishcar Madava Row reached the capital on the third day after Dewan Krishna Row's death, and

CHAP. VIII the young officer was at once placed in charge of the Dewan's duties and he continued discharging them for a month and a half when he received his appointment as acting Dewan. This was in the middle of January 1858 (2nd Makaram 1033 M.E.)

The disappointment thus made caused the Dewan Peishcar Ramen Menon to resign his appointment, though the Maha Rajah offered him the post of head Dewan Peishcar on a salary of 800 Rupees per mensem, and promised to increase the salary to 1,000 Rupees ; but he would not be satisfied with a subordinate post under Madava Row, and so he was allowed to retire on a pension of 175 Rupees, equal to the salary which he was receiving in the Calicut Huzzoor Cutcherry as Naib Sheristadar, when he was invited to Travancore.

As regards the fitness and qualifications of the acting Dewan Madava Row for the important office of prime minister, proofs were not wanting. Madava Row commenced a career almost unprecedented in Travancore in modern times, and the Maha Rajah began to forget the loss of Krishna Row as an efficient premier.

Simultaneously with the appointment of the acting Dewan, several changes were made by the Maha Rajah. Shungoony Menon, Police Sheristadar, was promoted to the office of Deputy Peishcar, and put in charge of the southern (Padmanabhapuram) division, vacated by Dewan Peishcar, Madava Row.

With the Maha Rajah's sanction, acting Dewan Madava Row introduced several changes for the efficient carrying on of business. He was very earnest in introducing reforms and manifested a great desire to adopt various new measures, but the Maha Rajah's prudent and calm discrimination prevented in a measure the rapidity of the acting Dewan's progress in this direction. Besides a great many of the prerogatives of Government were reserved to the palace the head officials of which seldom yielded to any new proposal emanating from the Dewan, without a discussion.



DEWAN MADAYA ROW

LITHOGR. BY SOSE BROTHERS.

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Acting Dewan Madava Row was bent not only upon the improvement of the internal affairs of the country but also upon the maintenance of the best relations with the Madras Government. He did great service with his pen by giving a true account of the state of affairs in Travancore, and thus disabusing the minds of several great officers and the conductors of the leading papers in India as well as in England.

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On receipt of the Maha Rajah's explanatory answer, the Government of Madras had changed their opinion about Travancore, but subsequent to Madava Row's appointment, they evinced entire satisfaction with the mode in which the administration was conducted.

Lord Harris, the Governor of Madras, visited the Neilgherry hills about this time, and while there, the Maha Rajah addressed His Lordship early in September 1858, requesting him to honor Travancore with a visit. Many of His Highness' friends including General Cullen, the Resident, expressed their doubts as to whether the Governor would accept His Highness' invitation, but fortunately the result was quite different; for the Maha Rajah received an immediate reply from the Governor accepting His Highness' invitation, and promising a visit to Travancore towards the close of the year.

On receipt of this favourable reply, preparations were at once commenced to give His Lordship a suitable reception.

The re-building of the eastern fort gate which had been commenced a couple of years before, was now expedited and completed. Fort walls, on either sides of this gate, were newly built. The southern side of the hall of audience, where stood a line of buildings for the maramuth department, was converted into a spacious parade ground; the streets were all improved; in short, the whole town of Trevandrum looked as if it had been renovated. Similiar arrangement were ordered to be made both at Quilon and Allepprey, as well as at the northern frontier.

Towards the middle of November, the Maha Rajah and the Resident received official information of His Lordship's probable arrival at Cochin on the 24th of that month, and the former lost no time in summoning deputy Peishcar Shungoony Menon from his station at Padmanabhapuram, and ordering him to proceed to Balghauty for the purpose of meeting His Lordship and conveying to him the Maha Rajah's respectful compliments. He was further ordered to accompany His Lordship from thence to Trevandrum. Shungoony Menon waited at Balghauty where General Cullen, the Resident, was getting everything ready for the reception of Lord Harris. Preparations on a great scale were at the same time being made by the Cochin Sircar to give His Lordship a fitting reception.

The Governor and suite arrived at Balghauty on the morning of the 24th idem, and was received at the landing place by General Cullen, the Cochin Dewan, Vencatta Row, the Maha Rajah's messenger Shungoony Menon and several European and native gentlemen of rank and position.

The Governor's suite consisted of the Chief Secretary, Mr. Pycroft; the Private Secretary, Mr. Murray, Military Secretary, Captain Roberston; Aide-de-Camp; the Honorable Captain Harris and Doctor Sanderson.

After breakfast, Shungoony Menon was introduced to the Governor and he discharged his mission by conveying to His Lordship the Maha Rajah's greetings.

The Governor and party stayed two days at Balghauty and left that place on the evening of the 26th November in Her Majesty's Steamer "Feroze," which brought His Lordship from Calicut to Cochin. General Cullen preceding the party by backwater to Quilon.

The acting Dewan Madava Row was now confirmed in his office, and the Maha Rajah ordered him to go to Quilon, to receive the Governor on his landing there.

A large temporary shed was erected on the Quilon beach, with profuse decorations, and it was neatly furnished. All the available officers and men of the 2nd Regiment, M. N. I., stationed at Quilon, lined the beach to salute the Governor on arrival. CHAP.
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Lord Harris and party landed at Quilon on the morning of the 27th, and was received by the Resident, the Dewan, and by all the officers, Civil and Military, assembled there. The party proceeded to the Residency and remained there till the evening of the 29th when they proceeded by backwater to Trevandrum, where Lord Harris reached early on the morning of the 30th, and as may be imagined, had a warmer and grander reception than at Quilon.

The landing place was covered with a number of splendid temporary buildings. A large State tent was pitched there. The steps leading to the buildings and the tent were decorated with roses and other fragrant flowers, and the road was lined on both sides by the brigade sepoyas and mounted troopers. A salute of 19 guns was fired as soon as Lord Harris set his foot on the landing place. The party, after staying a few minutes in the tent, proceeded to the Residency, the Governor and General Cullen getting into the Maha Rajah's magnificent carriage drawn by four horses, and the others following in other equipages.

The gubernatorial party were lodged in the Residency, which building had been previously prepared for the grand occasion. State tents were also pitched in the Residency premises for their accommodation.

His Highness the third Prince (the present first Prince) paid a visit to Lord Harris after breakfast and had a few minutes conversation with him.

The next day, His Lordship the Governor required a little rest after his fatiguing journey from the blue hills to Trevandrum, and consequently, the Maha Rajah postponed his visit to the next day.

At noon on the 1st December, the Maha Rajah set

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The Maha Rajah alighted at the steps, which were beautifully lined with crimson cloth where General Cullen received His Highness and led him to the drawing-room, where Lord Harris received His Highness with great cordiality and kindness, and both His Highness and the Governor took their seats on a sofa, which was purposely placed just in the centre of the northern end of the room. The Maha Rajah's nephews, their Highnesses the first and the third Princes, took their seats on either side, and the line was continued by the Resident, the Governor's staff, the European and Civil and Military officers of Travancore, and the ladies and gentlemen specially invited for the occasion. After a few minutes conversation, the usual formalities of distributing flowers and attar were gone through. The Maha Rajah took leave and returned to the palace. On arrival at, and returned from, the Residency, royal salutes were fired by the brigade artillery.

After the Durbar, Lord Harris and party, accompanied by General Cullen, visited the Observatory and some other places and returned to the Residency where there was to be a grand dinner in the evening.

The Maha Rajah paid a visit to Lord Harris that evening during dinner, and, without any ceremony or scruple, sat near the Governor and commenced a conversation with great familiarity. His Highness with his suavity of temper, winning manners and affability, found no difficulty in gaining the friendship of such an accomplished nobleman as Lord Harris.

The dinner was over at 11 P.M., and the Maha Rajah took leave of the Governor like an old friend. CHAP.
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On the next day, Lord Harris paid a formal visit to His Highness at a Durbar which was held in the hall of audience. A little after 12 A.M., a royal salute from the brigade artillery, at the eastern fort gate, announced the Governor's entering the fort. The Nair brigade, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Faunce, paraded in the large square, in front of the hall, together with the brigade band and troopers of the Maha Rajah. Huge tuskers, richly caparisoned, stood in a row behind the line, with silver and gold howdahs on their backs.

Lord Harris, on alighting at the steps of the hall, was received by His Highness the First Prince (the present Maha Rajah), and led to the stair-case, where the Maha Rajah was ready to conduct His Lordship to the seat in the hall. The arrangement of seats and all the ceremonies were precisely the same as those observed on the previous day at the Residency. A sofa, richly lined, was placed in front of His Highness' throne, at the western end of the hall on which the Maha Rajah and the Governor were seated. His Highness the First Prince, the Resident, the Chief Secretary and others taking their seats on either side as was pre-arranged, and after the usual formalities of distributing flowers and attar, the Durbar broke up, and the Governor returned to the Residency amid the cheerful greetings and applause of the people assembled in the plain.

In the afternoon, the Governor visited His Highness' Free School and held an examination of the boys, and here the Maha Rajah also joined His Lordship. The examination was conducted for about an hour, and Lord Harris was quite delighted at the success that attended that useful Institution as evidenced by the progress made by the pupils. After the examination, the Maha Rajah drove His Lordship in his carriage, with General Cullen, to the Karamanay bridge, the

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architecture of which was much admired by His Lordship. His attention was particularly attracted by the material (a peculiar kind of hard laterite stone called *Narikallu*) with which the bridge was constructed. His Highness the First Prince also followed his uncle and party in another carriage, with the Chief Secretary, Mr. Pycroft.

In the afternoon of the 3rd December, Lord Harris paid a private visit to the Maha Rajah and had more than half an hour's conversation with His Highness at the palace ; after which His Highness introduced to His Lordship his nieces (the adopted Ranees), and his grand nephew. The Maha Rajah then conducted His Lordship to the adjoining buildings which were His Highness' private Dispensary, Laboratory, Library, and Menagerie, all well supplied and neatly arranged. The Governor and suite were much pleased with what they saw and were astonished at the attainments of the Maha Rajah, and the very intelligent interest he took in the pursuits of science. In the Menagerie there were several rare animals belonging to Travancore. A large rhinoceros and a couple of camel leopards attracted the attention of the party, and His Highness' taste in this branch of natural history was warmly applauded by Lord Harris and his followers, who then took leave of the Maha Rajah quite pleased and delighted with what they saw. In fact, they considered the day's interview to have been the most interesting.

On their way back to the Residency, His Lordship and party visited the Sircar printing office, and inspected the several presses of the establishment and its branches, the book-binding, type-founding and paper-making departments, every one of which received Lord Harris' commendation.

The next day having been fixed for His Lordship's return, the Maha Rajah wished to give a grand dinner at the Residency, and all preparations were commenced early on that day. General Cullen's butler, an able and experienced man, and the Quilon Residency

butler, an equally clever servant, combined their experience and skill and prepared the bill of fare for the occasion. In addition to the Residency cooks, some experienced hands were also entertained, and a dinner was prepared, on a scale which surpassed anything of the kind ever done before in Travancore on similar occasions. Game of all kinds was ordered from Neduvangard and other hilly districts and partridges, quails, snipe and other savoury birds were procured and added to the other delicacies. While the dinner was being cooked and prepared at the Residency, the Maha Rajah ordered his own cooks to prepare some fifty different sorts of sweetmeats such as are peculiar to Malayalam, Tamil, Mahratta and Hindustanee countries. These were forwarded to the Residency in beautiful dishes and silver plates. The table was laid at about 7 P.M., and the dinner lasted till 10 o'clock, after which the Maha Rajah invited the Governor and party to the Durbar hall to see a display of pyrotechnics.

The party adjourned to the hall which was most tastefully decorated, furnished and brilliantly lit. A grand illumination, commencing from the Residency gate in an unbroken line to the gate of the audience hall, with farewell mottoes to His Lordship, in large characters at intervals, were arranged. The front of the hall, a broad square, seemed to be in a blaze of light. In the hall upstairs the numerous lustres whose brilliance was reflected by the large mirrors on the walls, filled the place with uncommon fulgence. Roses and jessamine wreaths hanging down from the canopy above diffused the sweetest odours, and the atmosphere of the whole room seemed to be loaded with the perfume of Persian attar. The seats were arranged just as on the previous occasion. His Lordship was seated with the Maha Rajah in the sofa, and they were engaged in pleasant and friendly conversation for a few minutes. There was an attempt at a nautch; but the Maha Rajah's prudence suggested the discontinuance of it at once. When the fireworks were

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ready, the Maha Rajah led Lord Harris by the arm to the southern verandah, where rows of seats had been arranged. The display lasted about half an hour, and it was considered to have been a complete success. At the southern end of this square, and in the midst of the pyrotechnical show, a particular work was ingeniously contrived by a skilful artist exhibiting in large blazing characters, exquisitely designed the words "Welcome to Lord Harris." After the fireworks, and the distribution of flowers and attar the party broke up. Salutes were fired on the arrival and departure of the Governor, but they could hardly be heard from the deafening reports of the numerous little cannons called *Kathenas* which continued without intermission, from the commencement of the Durbar up to the departure of the Governor.

The Maha Rajah did not bid adieu to Lord Harris then, as His Highness wished to do so on board the steamer.

Early in the morning on the 4th December, the booming of guns announced the Governor's departure to the steamer and the Maha Rajah resolved to follow Lord Harris thither, partly to show His Highness' extreme consideration for the noble Lord, and partly to satisfy his Highness' desire to see beautiful steamer "Feroze."

Before Lord Harris' departure to the steamer, the Maha Rajah thought it was proper to forward a valedictory letter to His Lordship, and accordingly addressed the following communication, in His Highness' own style and handwriting, and forwarded the same through General Cullen before daybreak.

"PALACE,

"TRE"ANDRUM, 4th December 1858.

"MY LORD,

Please allow me, my Lord, before personally taking leave of your Lordship to do myself the pleasure of reiterating my most sincere thanks for the honor con-

ferred on me by your truly kind visit to my capital, and the invariable kindness evinced by your Lordship during the few, but most agreeable days, I had the pleasure of spending in your Lordship's noble society. I beg to assure your Lordship that I shall always look back with unfeigned pleasure and gratification to this most happy event which will ever be fresh in my memory.

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"I shall always feel myself proud to have the honor of corresponding with your Lordship either in India or in your native land.

"Wishing your Lordship a safe and pleasant voyage to your residency, and a long life, attended with uninterrupted health, and all manner of the choicest blessings.

I remain, My Lord,

Your most sincere friend,

(Signed) MARTHANDA VURMAH,
H. S. Rajah."

"*The Right Honorable G. F. R. Lord Harris,
Governor of Fort St. George.*

&c. &c. &c."

At about 12 M., the Maha Rajah proceeded to the beach, and alighted at the palace there, when His Highness had the pleasure of receiving the following reply from Lord Harris:—

"H. M. STEAMER "FEROZE."

"OFF TREVANDRUM, December 4th, 1858."

"YOUR HIGHNESS,

"I have had the honor and pleasure to receive your very kind letter of this date transmitted through General Cullen.

"It gives me infinite satisfaction to find that my visit has afforded your Highness so much gratification and to have been received with so much kindness and distinction.

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"It is the wish of myself, and of the Madras Government, to support your Highness' position, and I feel we can best do so by endeavouring to the best of our power to assist your Highness in improving the fine country, and the interesting people over whom it has pleased the Almighty to entrust to you the rule."

"I can assure your Highness, that I reciprocate most heartily and sincerely your kind wishes of health and prosperity, and I trust you may be spared to enjoy a long and happy life in the midst of your family."

"It will always give me sincere pleasure to hear of your Highness' well being, and to be of any use to you should occasion offer when I return to England."

"I have been taught from my earliest years to take an interest in and to benefit the people of India. I had endeavoured to do so to the best of my abilities, and I shall continue to do so till my life's end."

I have the honor to be,

Your Highness' very obedient servant.

(Signed) HARRIS."

"HIS HIGHNESS,

The Maha Rajah of Travancore."

At about 1 P.M., the Maha Rajah accompanied by their Highnesses the first and third Princes, Colonel Faunce, the Commanding Officer, and Doctor Waring, the Durbar physician, embarked in a large boat and were soon on board the steamer, where Lord Harris received His Highness most cordially, and a salute was fired from the largest of the guns on board, sixty-eight pounders, which were highly admired by the Maha Rajah, who expressed a wish to see ball and bombshell firing which was done at once. His Highness' astonishment was very great, especially at the dexterity and ease with which the men performed the work. After this, every part of the vessel and its machinery were minutely and attentively inspected by His Highness, who intimated to Lord Harris a desire to see the working of the engines, which were then placed at full

speed, the vessel making an excursion to the north to CHAP.
a distance of about five or six miles and returning to ~~the~~ her former position, in the course of half an hour.

At the time of parting, the Maha Rajah having obtained His Lordship's permission to present a sum of money to the sailors, handed a purse to the Captain of the "Feroze" for distribution among them. Afterwards, the Maha Rajah took leave of Lord Harris and descended into his boat. Immediately after the boat had left the ship's side, Lord Harris and party standing on the deck waved their hats, and at the same time, the air resounded with the booming of the guns on board the steamer. The "Feroze" weighed anchor after the safe landing of the Maha Rajah and party.

This was the Governor who sent the despatch of 1855, by the order of the Governor-General Lord Dalhousie, as has been already stated. His Lordship must have now felt the tone and tenor of his late Minute to have been unnecessarily severe, as his personal acquaintance with His Highness and with the affairs of his Government could not but have satisfied him that matters had been misrepresented to him.

The reasonableness of the above conjecture must be apparent from the spirit of His Lordship's reply to the Maha Rajah.

Soon after the Governor's departure, the deputy Peishcar Shungoony Menon rejoined his division in the south, but he had the mortification to find, that, during his absence fresh misunderstanding had arisen between the Hindus and the Shanar converts. The spirit of hostility between these two sections of the inhabitants had lain dormant for some time chiefly through the interference of the Sircar authorities, but it seemed to have been again roused up, and the disputes this time were of a more serious nature. The Peishcar's efforts to throw oil on the troubled waters and bring matters to a satisfactory conclusion proved in the long run abortive; although he succeeded in restoring harmony between the parties temporarily.

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VIII. The misunderstanding had originated entirely from the Shanar Christian females assuming the costume of high caste Hindu females. They had been doing this from the early days of their conversion, and instead of endeavouring to suppress what might eventually cause serious complications, the Missionaries encouraged them and fostered among them a spirit of hostility against the high caste Hindus. The Sircar had been necessitated, in 1814, to interfere and legislate for the future guidance of the Shanars, but notwithstanding this during a period of fifteen years there were quarrels on various occasions between the parties. Matters now looked serious and the interference of the Government seemed to be again called for. There had been a legislative enactment in 1829, at the very commencement of the reign of the greatly renowned Maha Rajah who died in 1022 M.E. (1847 A.D.) In this enactment, it was clearly laid down that the female Shanar converts were at liberty to cover their bosoms with a jacket, and a strict prohibition was laid down against their adopting high caste Hindu costumes; but the aim of the converts had been persistently to defy the higher class Hindus and to despise their brother Shanars, who professed Hinduism (certainly with a hidden motive), and the converts were supported all along by the Missionaries whose intention apparently was to introduce English customs as if they were in civilized England instead of Travancore. They also claimed perfect toleration and liberty for their converts, without taking into consideration the time, the country, the nature of the Government, and their own position in foreign land and the consequence was that it was difficult to settle the dispute at once, while on the part of the Shanars there was an open defiance of the laws of the land, which, on account of the encouragement they received from the Missionaries, it was difficult to curb. And the Travanoore Government, being reluctant to come in contact with the Missionaries, owing to its regard for the paramount power, desisted from taking

active measures, and the result was that the Hindus and the Shanar converts and their respective supporters openly assumed hostile positions against each other.

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Such a feeling existed between the parties from the earliest period of the Mission works in south Travancore, but by the strong protection and toleration afforded to the promotion of the Christian Missions by the Travancore Government, the work of the Missionaries progressed most rapidly, and in the course of the next thirty years conversions to Christianity increased, and in the villages in Nanjenaud and the adjacent districts numerous Chapels, Churches and Schools were built. These places were crowded with large numbers of Shanar converts, and Catechists commenced to itenerate through all Hindu villages with their tracts and books and began preaching to the Hindus. This circumstance must naturally have roused the jealousy of the Hindus, while the converts instead of keeping themselves within bounds, took advantage of their support by the Missionaries and began to prove themselves a source of annoyance to the Hindu portion of the people, by openly defying them whenever there was an opportunity and the result was the complication above alluded to.

It is a matter worthy of particular remark, that the Mission work of conversion in south Travancore was mostly, if not exclusively, confined to the Shanars, Parayars, and other low caste people, who form but a minor portion of the population of the districts, while conversions among the higher orders were seldom effected. At the same time, while the Church Mission Society in the north did its work quietly and without endeavouring to introduce reforms violently, the London Mission in the south seemed to pursue quite a different policy for nearly half a century.

The system adopted by the London Mission savoured more of the undue and illegitimate exercise of power than persuasion and well meant endeavours to impress

CHAP. VIII. upon people the truth of the principles of religion, and hence, the chief cause for the Hindus to be dissatisfied with them and to consider their proceedings offensive.

This fact can be seen from a fact connected with the founder of the London Mission in Travancore, the Reverend Mr. Ringeltaube, who, on paying a visit to the then Dewan Valu Thamby, for the express purpose of endeavouring to obtain a footing for the London Mission in Travancore, in 1806, being asked by the minister what religion he professed, the Reverend gentleman answered "Colonel Macaulay's Religion,"* instead of saying the Christian religion or the religion established by Christ, who He was, when and how Jesus Christ was born, what wonders and miracles Christ had performed in the world, how He became the Saviour of mankind, how He suffered, and how His resurrection took place after His crucifixion and burial and so on. Let the reader note the severe rebuke implied in the following remark which that great Hindu Statesman made on hearing what Mr. Ringeltaube said about his professing "Colonel Macaulay's religion," "I never knew that there was such a religion" said the Dewan, meaning of course, a religion invented or professed by a private individual, for Christianity was in existence in Travancore for more than a thousand years before that period.

Acting under such selfish principles, it is no wonder that the Missionaries considered themselves to be entitled to respect from the Hindus. Why the Society did not think of proceeding in a more conciliatory manner with the Hindu portion of the population, and why they endeavoured to create in the Hindus a spirit antagonistic to the Christian religion are points for inquiry.

The very illustration in Mr. Mateer's work, page 277, will show plainly how the females of the Shanar converts were taught to imitate the costume of the higher

* See Reverend Mater's Land of Charity, page 262.

class Hindus, while there are numerous modes of costumes adapted for Christians which would be more desirable from a European point of view. It is clear that this style of costume adopted by the Shanar converts was with the express object of annoying the Hindu section of the population of the districts.

The costume in question was not the only cause for offence which the Shanar converts gave to the higher classes, but in various other ways they rendered themselves obnoxious to the Sudra community.

For instance, one Shanar Puthathan Cutty and his wife, Eshakee, were the cultivators of Mādom Pillay, a Sudra landed proprietor. These became converts and left Mādom Pillay's service, and Puthathan Cutty subsequently became a Catechist under a Missionary, and his wife assumed a costume similar to that of Mādom Pillay's wife. Now, both the Catechist and his wife came to Mādom Pillay's house and began to converse with him, on terms of equality, commencing a discussion with Mādom Pillay on the subject of religion and calling him "an ignorant man" and a sinner (as all the heathens are put down by the Mission people in the vernacular, in the category of "*Agnanikul*," ignorant men). Was it possible for Mādom Pillay not to resent the impertinence of those who were but lately his dependents; and their sole object in coming to his house—the wife dressed in a costume similar to that of Mādom Pillay's wife—must have been to cause him annoyance? It is also worthy of note that on a quarrel ensuing between the Shanar converts and Mādom Pillay, the Missionary who used to support him, espoused the cause of the Catechist and appeared himself before the authorities and adopted measures for the punishment of Mādom Pillay in which favored by the advantages of his color and position he succeeded. Here is a solution of the question why the Missionaries are considered by the Hindus as acting partially towards the converts and prosecuting the Hindus. Besides if even a reasonable

CHAP. VIII. complaint were made by Sircar official, he would be represented by the Missionaries as partial and in a communication to the Resident denounced as *corrupt, unprincipled*, and so forth. The Missionaries at the same time did not hesitate to drag the *Government* into the discussion. The Missionaries by their writings can make the world believe that terrible persecutions against Christianity are carried on in Travancore, and the British Government invariably gives credence to statements thus disseminated, and being the paramount power, they can come down upon the Travancore Sircar with rebuke and strong disapproval,* ignoring the fact that Christianity as professed by the Syrians and Roman Catholics existed in Travancore from time immemorial. A convincing instance in support of this statement shall be given presently.

Though the matters connected with the upper cloth dispute between the Shanar converts and the Hindus were temporarily adjusted by the exertions of the deputy Peishoar, yet the disputes broke out again in a short time and several quarrels and disturbances took place between the parties in the markets and thoroughfares where the females of Shanar converts appeared in Hindu costumes. Just at this time, the Dewan Madava Row paid a visit to the south and finding the serious nature of the rupture between the parties, he issued a proclamation on the 27th December 1868, as a precautionary measure and with the view of preventing further disturbances. The tenor of the proclamation was that, it was clearly wrong to violate ancient usages; that the law laid down for the observance of the parties

* Mr. Whitehouse reported the case of Aroomanayagum, a converted slave, who was beaten by his master Mādom Pillay, and another Sudra for attending Christian worship. Although the serious injuries inflicted on the poor man were certified in detail by the Court physician, Dr. Reed, a mere nominal fine of only 5 Rupees each, was inflicted by the Magistrate on his assailants. But an appeal being made to the Madras Government, the fines were increased to seventy Rupees and the Travancore authorities were reproved for their unjust lenity.—Mateer's "Land of Charity," page 296.

concerned, by a royal proclamation in the year 1829, should be respected; that whoever infringed the law would be liable to severe punishment, that Shanars were to bear the same in mind and act accordingly; that Sudras and people of the higher caste were not to do anything themselves against the Shanars and cause a breach of the peace, and that should they commit anything contrary to the law, due notice would be taken of their conduct.

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This proclamation had nothing new in it. It was entirely founded upon the enactment passed under the judicious advice and counsel of Colonel Munro in 1814, and in 1829, with the full concurrence of the able Resident, Colonel Morrison, C.B.

The rules prescribed by the Circular Order of 1814, and the proclamation of 1829, were precisely the same, and were calculated to prevent collisions and preserve peace between the contending parties. The sum and substance of those rules were that Shanar females, converted to Christianity should wear the costume worn by other Christian females, *i.e.*, jackets similar to those used by the lace-making Shanar females, as represented in the "Land of Charity," page 272, but no prohibition whatever had been issued against the convert females covering their bodies. Those rules were observed and matters went on smoothly for about thirty years. The Missionaries, for the time being, were contented with these rules, and preferred to wait for an opportunity to get them amended in a manner favoring the aims and fancies of the Shanar and Parayar converts.

Under these circumstances, Dewan Madava Row's judicious proclamation was considered by the Missionaries as a proof of his "gross and unconcealed partiality," and they therefore at first petitioned the Maha Rajah and then the Madras Government praying for the cancelling of the Dewan's proclamation, the Circular Order of May 1814, and the proclamation of February 1829.

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By this time, Lord Harris, the Governor of Madras retired, and was succeeded by Sir Charles Trevelyan, before whom the question was laid for decision. His Excellency seemed to have taken a one-sided view of the question, and without giving the matter calm and deliberate consideration, and reflecting on the real meaning of the Circular Order and proclamation alluded to, came to the conclusion that the privilege of covering their bosoms had been denied to the females of the Shanar converts by the Travancore Government, and under this impression wrote in the following decisive terms to General Cullen :—

" I have seldom met with a case in which not only truth and justice, but every feeling of our common humanity are so entirely on one side. The whole civilized world would cry shame upon us if we did not make a firm stand on such an occasion. If anything could make this line of conduct more incumbent on us, it would be the extraordinary fact that persecution of a singularly personal and delicate kind is attempted to be justified by a royal proclamation, the special object of which was to assure to Her Majesty's Indian subjects, liberty of thought and action so long as they did not interfere with the just rights of others. I should fail in respect to Her Majesty, if I attempted to describe the feelings with which she must regard the use made against her own sex of the promises of protection so graciously accorded by her.

" It will be your duty to impress these views on His Highness the Rajah, and to point out to him that such prohibition as those conveyed in the Circular Order of May 1814, or in the proclamation of the 3rd of February 1829, are unsuited to the present age, and unworthy of an enlightened Prince."

This communication from the new Governor startled the old General, and he pressed upon the Maha Rajah to pass an act in accordance with the views of His Excellency but by adopting such a sweeping measure,

the Maha Rajah apprehended still greater evils, and, consequently, after due and long deliberation and consultation with the able Dewan, a new royal proclamation was prepared and published in July of the same year 1859, making further concessions to the Shanar females in the matter of their dress. But this concession did not imply any permission to the convert females to assume the costume of Brahman women. The Missionaries were not quite satisfied with this proclamation, but it sufficed to check further disturbances on the score of dress.

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The spirit of the Missionaries in this matter is evident from the Rev. S. Mateer's work entitled "Land of Charity;" Chapter XII, pages 295-306. Is his quasi-sensational writings, the Reverend gentleman animadverts rather strongly, and it must be said, with a good deal of unfairness, on the proceedings of a Government which had tolerated Christianity hundreds of years before protestantism came into existence and which had protected the very London Mission itself from its cradle, so to speak, and this in a country whose people and sovereign profess orthodox Hinduism.

The unfair animadversions of the Missionaries cast a reflection on the reputation of the Maha Rajah and of his Government and created an unfriendly feeling between them and the Hindus, who charge them with want of gratitude, after they had been allowed to work freely and open Missions in their land.

The senior Ranee, one of the two adopted Princesses, having become marriageable, according to the usage of the royal house, Her Highness' wedding was resolved on by the Maha Rajah, and in the month of Mâdom 1034 (April 1859), the royal marriage was performed with great pomp and grandeur. Her Highness was wedded to a young Koil Thampuran of Chunganacherry, a grand nephew of the Maha Rajah's father.

In the commencement of the next year 1035 M.E. (1859 A.D.), the Maha Rajah contemplated the establishment of two more divisions, one at Quilon and the

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General Cullen, the Resident, who had been appointed twenty years ago when the country was in a highly flourishing state, and witnessed many a change during his long tenure of office, had now the pleasure of seeing the country in a better condition, and so he resolved to bid farewell to Travancore. The Veteran General retired in the early part of January 1860, to the very great regret of the Maha Rajah and every one of the State officers, as well as of the whole population of Travancore. To His Highness, General Cullen was the kindest of friends; to the officials, he was a benevolent patron, and to the inhabitants, he was an affectionate and judicious protector. Under such circumstances, the old General made up his mind to reside in Travancore and finish his worldly career in this country and his wish was accordingly gratified, by divine will, in 1862.

In appreciation of the interest General Cullen always evinced in the welfare of Travancore, His Highness instituted a scholarship in the General's name at the the Madras High School, under the designation of "Cullen's Scholarship."

Mr. Maltby succeeded General Cullen as the Resident, and in him the Maha Rajah found a friend not less valuable than General Cullen.

After Lord Harris' return to England, His Lordship apparently mooted the subject of forwarding the

present, graciously promised by Her Majesty Queen Victoria to His Highness the Maha Rajah. It was accordingly despatched, and reached Madras, and ultimately Travancore, towards the end of April 1860, and on an intimation being given by the Resident to the Maha Rajah, His Highness' joy and delight knew no bounds. Arrangements for a grand Durbar for the reception of the present were at once ordered, and preparations, set on foot for the occasion in the same style, as on the occasion of the receipt of Her Majesty's letter in 1851.

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In consultation with Mr. Maltby, the Resident, the 2nd of May was fixed for the reception of the present, and the Dewan issued the usual invitations to all the ladies and gentlemen, and instructions to the officers commanding the Nair brigade.

The hall of audience was properly and magnificently decorated and furnished, and the houses in the town and their gates and the streets were also neatly decorated with flowers, plantains, and fruits, and festoons of flowers and the green leaves of palm trees plaited into ornamental shapes, hung across from house to house. The Nair brigade sepoy's and mounted troops paraded in front of the hall of audience, where State elephants, richly caparisoned with howdahs and trappings of silver, velvet, &c., with the State horses, formed a line.

The Durbar was to take place at about 4 P.M.; but soon after 3 o'clock, a large number of ladies and gentlemen were seated in the lower room of the Durbar hall, as customary, for the assembly were not supposed to go upstairs until the Resident's arrival.

At about 4 o'clock the British Resident, Mr. Maltby, arrived in grand procession accompanied by Colonel Stevenson, the Commanding Officer at Quilon, who was in charge of the Queen's present. The Resident was saluted by the troops and the band struck up the national anthem. The Resident was met at the steps

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On delivering the Queen's present, a royal salute from the brigade artillery and three volleys of musketry were fired, and after spending a short time in agreeable conversation, the Durbar was concluded by the usual distribution of garlands of jessamine and attar of roses.

The general joy caused by this incident was however marred by the terrible bereavement which the Maha Rajah sustained by the death on the very night of the Durbar of His Highness' lady, who had been laid up for the last two months.

Soon after this event, the Maha Rajah wished to commemorate this manifestation of Her Majesty's kindness and good-will towards His Highness, and in consultation with His Highness' friend Mr. Maltby, and his able Dewan Madava Row, it was resolved to

organize a Public Works Department, and to construct certain works in Her Majesty's name.

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Mr. Collins, a Civil Engineer, was entertained in the service of the Sircar in the same month (May), and the Maha Rajah subsequently proceeded to the fertile parts of His Highness' dominions (Nanjenaud). The excavation of a new canal from the south to Trevandrum which, it would appear, had been contemplated once in former times, was now resolved upon by the Resident and the Dewan, and the proposal being communicated to His Highness, sanction was at once accorded and the work was commenced in the same month. After the ceremony, usual on such occasions, His Highness removed the first turf with his own hand, with a silver spade expressly made for the purpose, and the canal was designated by the Maha Rajah "Victoria Anantha Marthanden Canal," a combination of Her Majesty's and His Highness' names, and connecting the two was the appellation of the Maha Rajah's household deity's vehicle, *Ananthen* (the endless).

While in the south, the Maha Rajah was unfortunately taken ill by a slight attack of fever, which he got over soon, under the able treatment of the Durbar Physician. But the germs of the disease, seemed still to lurk in his system.

His Highness returned to the capital without further delay. After reaching Trevandrum he had a slight relapse, followed by an attack of bowel complaint. But without paying much heed to his ailments, His Highness managed to perform his daily ablutions and attend to his other avocations. This distemper continued preying on the Maha Rajah's constitution which was very strong and powerful, but in a short time he was reduced to a very deplorable state. His Highness nevertheless bore up boldly and did not confine himself to his bed for any length of time. A couple of months passed thus and none apprehended any serious results from His Highness' illness, neither did

the Maha Rajah himself seem to be much concerned about his health. But towards the middle of July, *i.e.*, about two months after His Highness' return from the south he grew worse and the physician, Dr. Waring, did all that he could to arrest the course of the disease, which for a fortnight did not make further progress. All of a sudden, however, dangerous symptoms were observed, and the physician considered recovery hopeless, but still the Maha Rajah did not seem to be of the same opinion.

On the night of the 17th of August (2nd Chingam), the Maha Rajah was quite restless and had not a wink of sleep, and the next morning the 18th, His Highness himself was convinced of his approaching end, but without losing his usual presence of mind, he endured all his sufferings with becoming fortitude.

The next day, was the Maha Rajah's birth-day and the usual festivities being then celebrated, His Highness called in all of a sudden his affectionate and favourite nephew (the present Maha Rajah), who was always the companion of His Highness and who had been constantly with His Highness ever since he became indisposed, and spoke to him calmly and in a low tone that His Highness the Prince and the rest of the royal family need entertain no hope of the Maha Rajah's recovery, and that the Prince should not grieve but bear up with the calamity and manage matters without creating any confusion. His Highness desired the Prince to call in the Dewan and the other State officers who were waiting outside, to obtain the Maha Rajah's sanction for commencing the birth-day ceremonies which the Maha Rajah said he was doubtful if he would live to see. His Highness the Prince was much touched by such an announcement from his uncle, nay the Prince became almost senseless, but taking courage from the repeated advice of his dying uncle, the Prince-managed business as became his high position.

The Dewan and other officials were ushered in by

the order of the Prince and when they appeared in the Maha Rajah's presence, the Dewan was spoken to very kindly, and all the others had also a word or two from their amiable sovereign. Though the Maha Rajah began to breathe pretty hard, yet His Highness retained perfect consciousness and power of speech. All the members of the royal family now stood around the dying Maha Rajah. To each of them the Maha Rajah gave his blessing especially to His Highness' favourite nephew and his brother (His Highness the present first Prince of Travancore), and from the eyes of both of them tears were flowing; in short, there was not a single individual in and about the room whose eyes were dry. The Maha Rajah then turned towards his nephew and desired him to give a general order to keep the doors of the palace opened and to admit all the attendants, officers, palace servants, and such others into the hall where His Highness was lying, so that they may have a last look at the Maha Rajah. All the ceremonies and donations according to the prescriptions of the Vedas were performed by His Highness in full consciousness, and then His Highness desired his nephew to see everything conducted according to usage. The Maha Rajah subsequently ordered to be brought to him the sacred offering of the household deity from the pagoda, but by the time it was brought, the Maha Rajah was fast sinking. Nevertheless, at the very sight of the sacred thing, His Highness stretched his hands to receive it and applied the same to his eyes, and forehead and folding his hands, closed his eyes and reciting prayers in the name of the Almighty, the pious Maha Rajah slept his last sleep, without a struggle or the least sign of his being in agony, while the whole of the royal family who surrounded the dying Maha Rajah, and the State officials, and the royal attendants present there were one and all plunged in the greatest sorrow.

The palace and the adjoining buildings, as well as the premises, were filled with cries and lamentations

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and when the intelligence of the Maha Rajah's demise went beyond the palace walls, the scene outside was heart-rending. It is enough to say that a more melancholy spectacle was not seen in Trevandrum for many a long day.

His Highness the first Prince (the present Maha Rajah) although he deeply felt the loss of his uncle bore up with becoming fortitude and consoled his brothers and others, and began to follow the last advice of the deceased Maha Rajah by looking after affairs connected with the State.

His Highness the present first Prince was the chief mourner and undertook to perform and observe all the obsequies which lasted for a year. His Highness' brother joined in the ceremonies up to the twelfth day only; and then the affairs of the State demanded his attention.

The numerous virtues and good qualities of this Maha Rajah, of happy memory, would fill volumes were one to write a full account of them, and the writer thinks that he has scarcely done justice to all the events which he has described and narrated as having occurred in this memorable reign.

Various items of importance have been omitted for want of authority to particularize them in their chronological order, and so a few of them shall be stated here, though at random.

The Maha Rajah's partiality for European sciences and arts, as well as amusements, was widely known and European exhibitors began to visit Travancore soon after His Highness' accession to the musnud.

An Italian juggler first came to Trevandrum and entertained His Highness with his feats of legerdemain. The Maha Rajah being greatly delighted with his performances, the juggler was detained at Trevandrum for some time and he was handsomely remunerated on his departure.

A couple of years later a party of equestrians arrived at Trevandrum and astonished the Maha Rajah by their extraordinary performances. This party also received a handsome remuneration besides presents from the Maha Rajah, and left Trevandrum highly satisfied with the liberality of His Highness. CHAP.
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After some years, another party of equestrians, consisting of both sexes, paid a visit to Trevandrum and they were also treated with becoming hospitality and liberality.

A Doctor Kight, an Aeronaut, came to Trevandrum with his balloon and the Maha Rajah agreed to witness his ascent. Preparations were made, and on a certain morning, after filling his balloon with gas, the Aeronaut made the ascent to the great wonder and the astonishment of the Maha Rajah and the multitude of the spectators. In about half an hour the balloon ascended so high as to be scarcely discernible to the naked eye. The Maha Rajah became very anxious about the safety of Mr. Kight, and though previous arrangements had been made to watch the balloon and numerous boats had been provided to render assistance in case it fell into the sea, yet the Maha Rajah instructed those around him to despatch a number of His Highness' mounted troops to the different parts of the town and its suburbs to see if any intelligence could be obtained regarding the balloon.

The Aeronaut, Mr. Kight, made his descent at Neyattunkaray, about 12 miles east of Trevandrum at about 12 m., where he found one of His Highness' horsemen. Mounting the horse, Mr. Kight rode up to Trevandrum in full speed, leaving his balloon in charge of the local officials, and came before His Highness at 2 P.M. The Maha Rajah was delighted at the safe return of Mr. Kight, his mind being relieved of a good deal of anxiety as regards his safety. The rewards and remuneration Mr. Kight received from His Highness were far beyond his expectations.

Subsequent to the above event, an Italian repaired

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In generosity and liberality, the Maha Rajah's equal it would be difficult to find. His Highness was very particular in recognising merit during his reign. There were scarcely any meritorious servants of the State, high or low, who escaped His Highness' notice and recognition.

In Travancore, the manner in which merit is recognised and rewarded by royalty is by the bestowal of bangles or bracelets. There are several description of such. The first class is called *Veerachangala*, the presentation of a pair of which is considered to be the greatest mark of distinction. In this reign it was particularly observed that none of the really meritorious was seen unornamented by these decorations. Besides bangles various other rewards were also given by the Maha Rajah to his servants as well as to strangers.

Once when the writer of this history, distinguished himself in the detection of a very serious dacoity, the Maha Rajah showed his satisfaction and approbation by forwarding to him a purse containing a sum of money, with an autograph letter expressing his appreciation

of his services though the Maha Rajah had already CHAP
bestowed on him Veerachangalas and bangles. VIII.

For business-like habits, the Maha Rajah was unequalled. There was not a branch in the whole administration, from which His Highness did not receive a report. Even the petty departments in the palace had to submit a direct report to His Highness, and it was a matter of great surprise amongst every one that the Maha Rajah found time to attend to all these details.

His Highness used to keep a diary regarding all matters, public as well as private, which came to His Highness' notice. The Maha Rajah never omitted writing his diary even for a day, and would not take his supper before the day's diary was written up. The entries were mostly made by himself and several volumes of these diaries are bound and preserved, and any particular transaction or event which took place during the reign of His Highness for a period of fourteen years will be found clearly recorded in these volumes. This is a fact which will excite surprise not only in Travancore, but in many other parts of India.

The Maha Rajah's diary forms a sufficient guide in all State ceremonies connected with public, as well as domestic affairs, and it prescribes even the etiquette to be observed in Durbars and other public occasions and at meetings with persons of note among Europeans as well as natives.

The kindness, benevolence, generosity and philanthropy of His Highness, his piety and devotion were unrivalled, and such a combination of good qualities are rarely found in men of such high position. His Highness was really a godly man and somewhat like a minister of God. Many of the Hindu spiritual preceptors would not bear comparison with His Highness in his devotional observances.

Every day the Maha Rajah spent no less than three hours in the morning and evening in prayers and

CHAP. VIII devotions which often interfered with His Highness' taking his meals at the proper time. There was scarcely a day on which the Maha Rajah took his breakfast before one P.M., and supped earlier than twelve in the night, and on certain particular days of fasting as on the occasion of any other ceremonies, His Highness would not swallow even a drop of water during the day and would take his meals only at night after all the ceremonies were over.

His Highness Marthanda Vurmah Maha Rajah composed a Drama when he was living a merry life as Elia Rajah, under the title of *Simhadhwaja Charithum* (a chronicle of the life of a supposed king under the denomination of Simhadhwaja.)

This dramatic work is most instructive in regard to divine faith, and it was highly applauded by all Hindu learned men who had an opportunity of perusing it.

The ground-work of this poem is something similar to the account given of Job in the Bible. The most interesting part of this valued work shall be briefly described here :

The supposed King, Simhadhwaja, was childless, and he apprehended the extinction of his house; consequently he convened a meeting of all the learned men, and they unanimously recommended a pilgrimage to Benares and his supplication to the Almighty as the only means of realizing his wishes. The king commenced his journey on the very day, leaving the country in charge of his minister. In the course of his journey, he did not see any favorable signs; on the contrary he met with many misfortunes and trials, but he never neless did not despair and grew more firm and determined in his resolve, and continued his journey. Soon after, the sovereign lost every thing and there did not seem to be any prospect of his reaching Benares. In despair the king resolved upon abandoning his throne, and turning a sannyasi and wandering about on a devotional pilgrimage. In company with his wife, he travelled in the direction of

some holy place where he determined to undergo his penance together with her.

As the king was travelling with his wife through the hills and jungles, a *Rakshasen*, giant, suddenly obstructed their path in the wilderness and attempted to take away his wife, but the king being a strong man and a warrior, fought boldly and desperately with the giant, who overcoming the king, snatched at first his weapons and arms and destroyed them in his presence making him completely powerless and after beating him soundly, the giant walked away with the king's wife.

Notwithstanding this great calamity which had overtaken him, the king would not discontinue his prayers and devotions to the Almighty and began to submit all his grievances to Providence along with unshaken faith in God's mercy and providence. Now God Almighty was pleased with the piety and fidelity of the king, and the Lord of Heaven appeared in the form of a human being in a vision to the king, and blessed him, saying that the Almighty was quite satisfied with the true faith of the king, and that he should have all his desires gratified. So saying God Almighty ordered the angel, (for it was an angel in the shape of a giant, who carried away the king's wife) to restore the monarch's spouse at once and it was accordingly done.

Having received the divine blessing, the king returned to his country with his wife and lived several hundred years with his sons, grandsons, daughters and grand-daughters, in the enjoyment of sound health and prosperity.

From the plot and tenor of the above composition we can see clearly what a pious man His Highness Marthanda Vurmah Maha Rajah must have been.

